central VOICE

FREE

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2009

Gay Marine Eric Alva Fights DADT

Speaks Locally Nov. 14

By Frank Pizzoli

Alva

"Who would have thought that the first soldier wounded in the Iraq War is a gay Marine?" a sincere voice asked the US House Armed Services committee last July.

Eric Alva displayed his calm but focused manner before the committee taking testimony on the Military Readiness Enforcement Act. The measure intends to "to enhance the readiness of the Armed Forces by replacing the current policy concerning homosexuality in the Armed Forces, referred to as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell", with a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of sexual orientation," reads the legislative intent.

"...first soldier wounded in Iraq War is a gay Marine."

Alva is headliner speaker Nov. 14 for FAB, an evening celebrating the region's lgbt community and is a key source of funding for the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) Community Center Coalition of Central PA. See story on Page 1.

On Nov. 14, Alva will speak mainly about the strong roles played by lgbt people in society. "Alva's remarks are meant to empower those in the audience and let everyone know that they can make a very positive difference," says coalition president Ted Martin.

Alva, the first soldier wounded in the Iraq War, is active right now in the congressional DADT debate. If passed, the Military Readiness Enforcement Act repeals DADT,

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Painting the town rainbow

HARRISBURG • To the sound of whistles and revving motorcycle engines, the fourth annual Pride Fest Unity Parade was started on its way down Second Street in Harrisburg on Saturday July 25, 2009. This year's parade was the largest to date with 50 entries including four marching bands. The parade received Internet attention as members of the gay and lesbian band association from across the country where asking what was happening in Harrisburg, PA that three gay and lesbian band association bands where converging on the city.

The parade also included many elaborately decorated floats and walking units. Mark Smith, Parade Chair announced the winners of the parade competition from the North Stage at the Pride Festival. This year's parade winner's were as follows: Best Float: Brownstone, Best Decorated Vehicle: Club XS, Best Walking Unit: Vision of Hope MCC, Community Choice Award: St Paul's United Church of Christ & PFLAG, Parade Committee Award: MCC of the Spirit, Grand Marshal Award: Brownstone, First Place Band Award: Lesbian & Gay Big Apple Corp, Second Place Band Award: Bushwackers. Judges for this year's parade were Bolton Winpenny, former editor of Panzee Press, Judy Chambers, editor of Lavendar Letter, Rev. Larry Hawkins of St. Michael's Lutheran Church. Music judges were Dave Minnich and Leonard Smith.

More about Harrisburg, Reading & Lancaster Pride Festivals inside

Spirits United, a Pride Interfaith service was held at the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg at 16th and Market Street on Sunday, July 26. The theme "Your Rites, Our Rites, Human Rites: Hope, Equality, Love and Peace" was devised from the Pride 2009 theme. The service offers the LBGT community and its allies an opportunity to celebrate unity through worship.

Rev. Howard Dana, pastor of Unitarian Church, opened the service, welcoming those present to the first service held in the newly purchased building. This was followed by a Unitarian tradition of lighting of the Chalice lead by Alanna Berger, executive director of Silent Witnesses. Clergy taking part in the service represented the Episcopal, Lutheran, Jewish and Buddhist traditions. The Rev. Dr Terry Karanen offered the thought provoking reflection, "The H.E.L.P We Seek is Within Us", using the acronym for the four human rights of hope, equality, love and peace. The Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus, MCC of the Spirit One Voice Choir and Judy Leslie, soprano soloist, offered musical selections. A Sufi chant ended the service,

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Maloney:
Man of action
see p. 6

Monk's mandela
see p. 31

Patty Larkin uncovered
see p. 32

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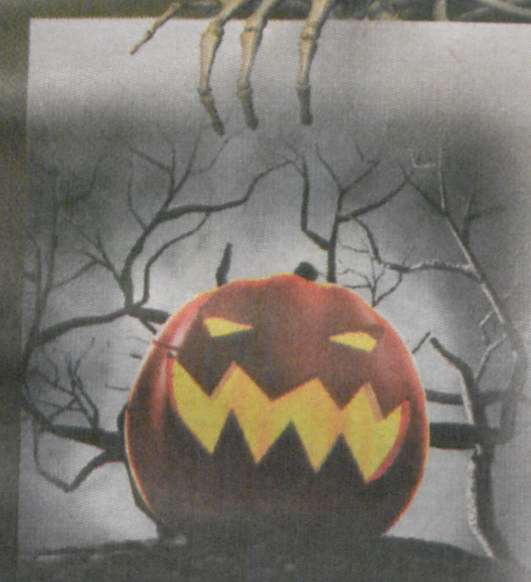

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Neighborhood Dispute Settlement Offers Mediator Barbara Van Horn

The Mediator: When did you first become involved in mediation?

Van Horn: I first became involved in mediation on 1993. Mediation was something that had long been an interest of mine. In 1993 NDS offered a basic training course and I saw that as an opportunity to get involved.

The Mediator: What sparked your initial interest in mediation?

Van Horn: I had a long-standing interest in matter of peace, justice, and non-violence. This seemed to be a perfect opportunity to put those values to practice by learning the methods and techniques of mediation and helping to make those values real in the lives of others in a practical way.

The Mediator: What role did NDS play in helping you get more involved in mediation?

Van Horn: I already mentioned the training offered by NDS. The real opportunity lay in the repeated opportunities to mediate with members of the community. That opportunity is always available so I am able to continue growing in the values that are important to me.

The Mediator: Of values that underlie mediation which are most important to you and why?

Van Horn: As I mentioned, peace and justice are core values I have long held. But I also believe in the importance of individual accountability. This is particularly important with the Victim/Offender mediations that I do for the Commonwealth.

The Mediator: What has been the greatest change in the work of mediation and/or in the role played by NDS in community mediation in the last five to ten years?

Van Horn: I don't believe I've seen much change . . . possibly we have more Bar Association and police referrals and we emphasize ongoing training more than we used to.

The Mediator: What hopes do you have for mediation as a form of alternative dispute resolution in our community for the future?

Van Horn: I have great hopes but not a lot of confidence they will be fulfilled unless something changes drastically in the priorities we use to fund services. I used to do victim/offender mediation with juveniles in York County. That program, one that I thought was very effective, was discontinued because of lack of funds and lack of understanding on the part of decision-makers. I'm committed to the effectiveness of our program and hope it survives.

Neighborhood Dispute Settlement, 315 Peffer St., Harrisburg, PA 7102; 717 233-TALK (8255)

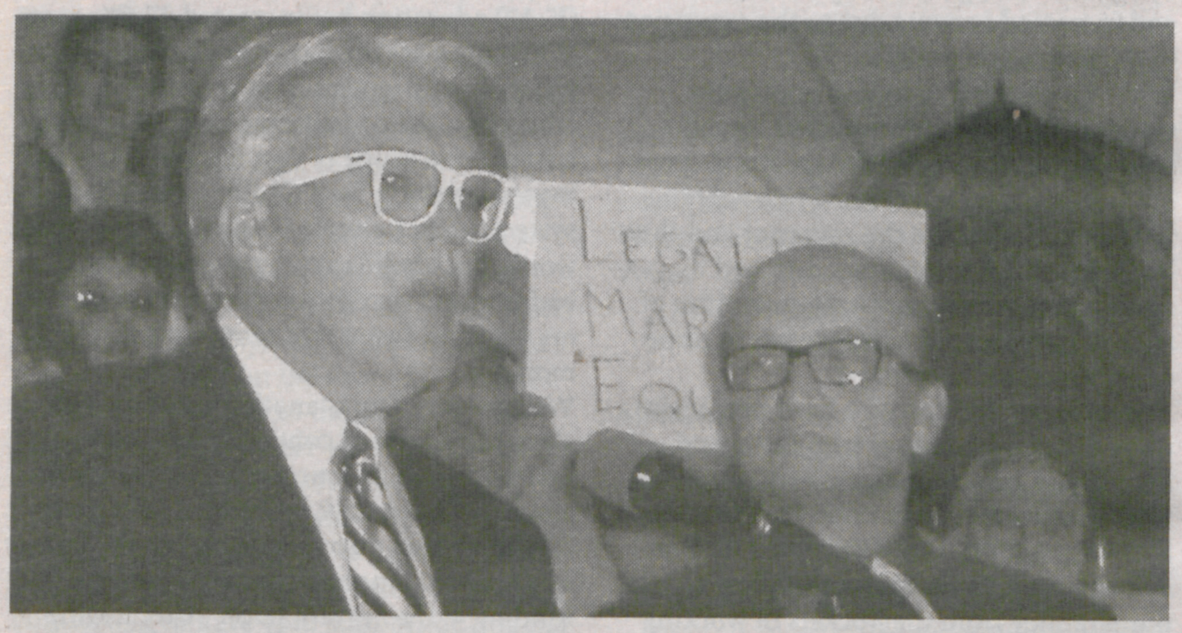
Historic PA Same-sex Marriage Bill Introduced

State Sen. Daylin Leach July 8 introduced Senate Bill 935 which offers full and equal marriage rights to same-sex couples in Pennsylvania. "This is a bright day," said Rabbi Carl Choper, chair of the Interfaith Alliance of Pennsylvania and a rabbi in Mechanicsburg for 16 years.

Liz Bradbury, PA Diversity Network, shared her experinces in a 21-year relationship. Recently unanimously reappointed chair of the PA Human Relations Commission Stephen A. Glassman endorsed the legislation.

Local couple Dwayne Heckert and Ted Martin shared thoughts on their relationship. The couple was married last year in California.

Six states and 25 countries allow for same-sex marriage. Leach's bill would not require religious organizations to recognize any marriages they do not wish to sanction.



State Rep. Frankel Applauds Passage of Allegheny County Human Relations Act

State Rep. Dan Frankel, D-Allegheny, issued the following statement on Wednesday evening's passage of the Allegheny County Human Relations Act:

"I applaud the members of the Allegheny County Council who voted in favor of the non-discrimination ordinance. This ordinance will make the law more fair and just in Allegheny County and make us more competitive for attracting and retaining jobs. This vote -- in Pennsylvania's second most populated county -- will also help advance similar statewide legislation in Harrisburg.

"Recent comments by state Senator John Eichelberger highlight why this ordinance is necessary. The senator said, in a public debate, that we 'allow [same-sex couples] to exist,' as if that were all our fellow citizens should expect.

"This kind of basic lack of respect for hundreds of thousands of his fellow citizens also jeopardizes economic development for our state. I'm reminded of the Oklahoma state legislator who cost her state 1,000 jobs when she made anti-gay comments last year.

"I'm delighted that residents of Allegheny County will now be protected from discrimination but am still concerned that many Pennsylvanians lack this basic protection, even while most residents believe it should be the law. Look at the 71 percent support statewide – including 63 percent support in the central/'T' region -- for House Bill 300, which would protect people who live or work in Pennsylvania from discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression."

find more community voice on pages 7, 8, 11, 12

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PUBLISHED BY
Press And Journal, Inc.
20 South Union Street
Middletown, PA
717-944-4628
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MEMBER: PENNSYLVANIA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

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publisher's note

Frank Pizzoli

Pride Festival Organizers Have Earned Our Respect

The current Pride Festival of Central PA board of directors, committee chairs, and sub-committee chairs, and its multitude of volunteers in corners of the operation we don't even know about have earned our respect. Thank you for providing the region with a memorable parade and day-long event.

Board members, all of whom volunteer their valuable time and enviable skills, are Jeffrey Clouser, President; Alanna Berger, Vice-President; Tammy Cassel, Communications; Diana Kuhns, Treasurer; and members Yvonne Small, Donald Anklam, Dale Schauer, Mark Smith, Justin Bacon. What an amazing group of dedicated people they are.

As if serving on the governing board itself isn't enough, they also serve as Committee Chairs: Anklam, Pride Committee; Smith, Parade Committee; Berger, Operations; Kuhns, Fundraising & Development; and Smith, Bacon and the region's treasure Dame Glenda; Media Marketing & PR.

Their work is not yet finished. Some of these same people, and others who are as dedicated and selfless, spend even more time making sure the event comes off on time, on budget, and with fun and flair.

Sub-committee Chairs: Dale Schauer, Vendors; Bacon, Volunteers; Stephen Weiland, Web & Stage Production; Miss Biscuit, Main Stage Entertainment; Dame Glenda, Second Stage Entertainment; Paul Foltz, Voices United Concert; Marlene Kanuck, Spirits United; Clouser, Strategic Planning; Carol Reisinger, Advisor.

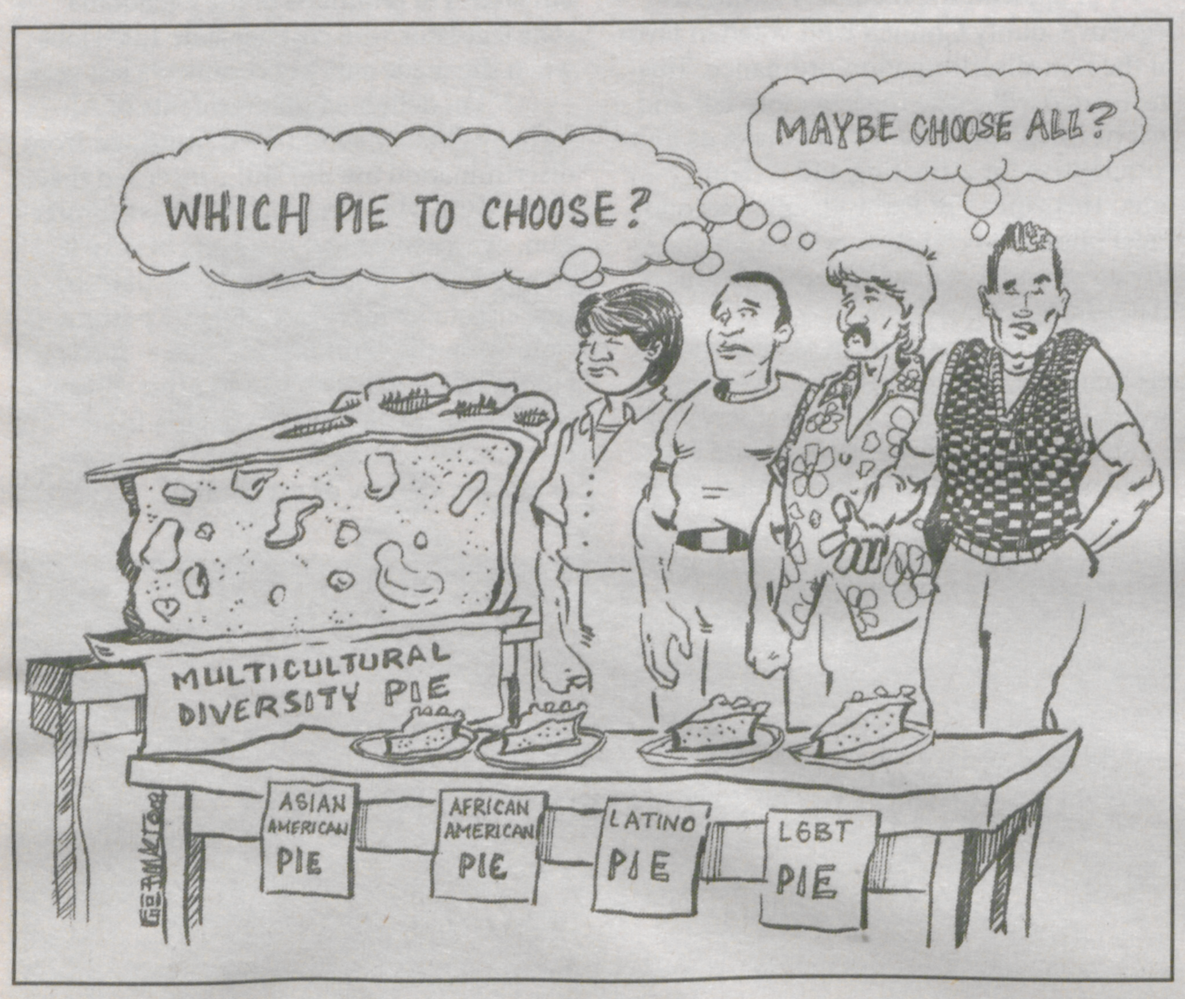
We are lucky to have your talents and skills at work for us!

voice box

"OMG! The Pride Festival of Central PA organizers deserve one big long "Thank you" that extends all the way along the parade route and all up and down the Pride sidewalk along the river. You people are amazing!

Via email from Jibbers

Email your thoughts to Central VOICE: posops@aol.com



your voice

Time to Debate the Role of State Government

Are we driving a Cadillac when a Ford would do?

By Lowman S. Henry

White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel famously said that "you never want a serious crisis to go to waste." That philosophy could easily be adapted to Pennsylvania's current budget impasse. Perhaps the crisis should not be looked at as a problem so much as it is an opportunity.

It is an opportunity to have a much overdue debate over the role, size and scope of government in Penn's woods. With the lone except of the Thornburgh Administration, state government has grown dramatically in recent decades. This unchecked growth in size and spending has been made possible by a job crushing tax hike passed in 1991 and increased revenue due to the expansion of the national economy.

With the national economy now in the throes of recession, revenue has lagged behind projections and the spending spree has become unsustainable. Politically this is a problem because the governor and the legislature have become accustomed to handing out every increasing quantities of state dollars and the citizenry has become accustomed to accepting it.

The recession has forced a hard new reality upon Harrisburg: either trim the spending or raise taxes significantly. Republican legislative leaders have rallied to the trim spending option, while Governor Ed Rendell and most Democrats are willing to take more money from the pockets of working families and small business so that they can continue dolling out the dollars.

All of this raises the question as to whether we can or should continue to fund all the programs currently funded, and should we continue to fund them at the same or increased levels? The answer to the first part of that question is that we cannot continue at the current pace, at least not without implementing some or all of the wide range of tax hikes proposed by the governor.

As for the should, that is the debate the current budget crisis has given us the opportunity to have. State spending, particularly on education and welfare, has been on a sharp upward trajectory for years. The Rendell Administration has also borrowed heavily to essentially try and bribe businesses to locate and or expand in Pennsylvania, with little to show for the expense. Clearly there are many areas where cuts must be considered.

Public education in particular has been a sacred cow. Proponents of endless funding increases use the specious emotional argument that it is "for the children." I say specious because no link has been established between the spending of more money and educational achievement. In fact, since fiscal year 2002-2003 state spending on basic (K-12) education has increased 37.6%.

While the state obviously has a constitutional requirement to provide public education, the constitution is silent as to the amount and scope of that funding. The fact is we are paying for a Cadillac education system when a simple Ford would due. And worse, our Cadillac system is performing so bad it would qualify for the Cash for Clunkers program (were that program not out of money).

Welfare spending is another area that has skyrocketed out of control. It has gone up 63% under the current administration alone. While it may seem cruel to suggest cuts in welfare during a recession, the fact is we can no longer continue to increase funding at the current pace. After flirting with significant reform in the 1990s, Pennsylvania's welfare system has reverted back to encouraging dependency rather than independence.

The state's system of funneling money to politically connected businesses and corporations has also been a bust. In fact, polling shows most business leaders in the state don't even support the "who you know" style of corporate welfare practiced by the Rendell Administration. The time has come to stop wasting dollars on programs

continued on page 6

Green Street & Juniata Valley Vegetarians Weigh In

Is Cass Sunstein a radical animal rights activist or just someone with ethics and common sense?

There's been a lot of hype over Obama's nomination of Cass Sunstein for Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA), a.k.a. "Regulatory Czar," since this is the office that reviews every federal regulation issued across the government.

Sunstein, a Harvard Law School Professor, is a well-known, respected and often cited legal scholar. If he is confirmed, he will end up supervising consumer safety, health and environmental regulations.

So what's all the fuss about Sunstein? Well, it would appear the man actually supports animal welfare, and not only that, but he supports consumer freedom…as in, consumers have a right to know what they're actually buying.

Those sound like wonderful qualities right? They are if you're a citizen who is concerned with how our animals treated and want to know where your money is going. However, there are some individuals and big groups against Sunstein for this position.

Back in January an article came out in Mother Jones by Jonathan Stein about the opposition to Sunstein's nomination, which highlighted some interesting facts.

For starters, a huge opponent of Sunstein is the Center for Consumer Freedom (CCF), which sounds like a nice wholesome group, that is until you take a closer look and see who's running it.

CCF is run by Richard Berman, who has worked on campaigns such as fighting the creation of nonsmoking sections in restaurants, which was funded by none other than Philip Morris.

CCF also loves bacon and hot dogs and calls the Journal of American Medical Association's findings on links to diabetes and soda garbage. Hmmm…

Back to the real objection being that Sunstein actually has the audacity to stand up and take the following positions on animal welfare:

In a 2002 working paper Sunstein authored at the University of Chicago, he wrote, "[T]here should be extensive regulation of the use of animals in entertainment, scientific experiments, and agriculture." In a 2004 book that he coedited and contributed to, Animal Rights: Current Debates and New Directions, he wrote, "Animals should be permitted to bring suit, with human beings as their representatives…Any animals that are entitled to bring suit would be represented by (human) counsel, who would owe guardian-like obligations and make decisions, subject to those obligations, on their clients' behalf." And during a 2007 panel discussion at Harvard on animal rights, Sunstein said hunting for "sport and fun"—not for food—should be "against the law" and that greyhound racing, cosmetic testing on animals, and the eating of meat raised in inhumane conditions ought to be eliminated. He also said at the panel that the current treatment of livestock and other animals should be considered "a form of unconscionable barbarity not the same as, but in many ways morally akin to, slavery and mass extermination of human beings," according to Stein.

Gasp! Wait, actually that doesn't sound all that radical. It sounds like someone with a sense of ethics and a conscience at work.

Unfortunately, as other senators put a hold on Sunstein's nomination, headlines such as, "Animals Can Sue People," are all the rage. As if Sunstein has painted a picture of a dog or an elephant walking into a courtroom with a briefcase fully prepared for litigation against his or her offender.

That wasn't his point at all. His point was that people should have the standing to take legal action on behalf of animals who are suffering, or where welfare laws aren't being upheld, which would actually solve a huge problem regarding the lack of enforcement of our current animal welfare laws.

Submitted by Green Street Vegetarians & Juniata Valley Vegetarians

letters to the editor

To the Rescue
A group of us came from the Johnstown area for the Pride festivities as we have been doing so for the past 4 years, some longer. We really look forward to our trip to Harrisburg for the parade, festival and bar hopping. However this year I need to express our gratitude to the citizens, police and medical personnel for their assistance when my partner (of 30 years) collapsed around 3 p.m. on Saturday on the Front St. sidewalk. A sincere thank you to the two girls who called 911, to the officer who stayed with us and the off duty EMT who assisted until the ambulance arrived. We were so shook up we never got your names to formally thank you for your care and assistance. It was very comforting to have your support during our crisis. Dave was taken to the ER at Pinnacle Hospital. He was diagnosed with low blood sugar and dehydration. After five hours he was stabilized and released. He rested at the hotel. He is now fine thanks to all of you.

With sincere thanks,
Dave & Gene
Cambria County

Uplifting
I like the coverage you provided to the Excitement Video & Toys events. I work at one of the Philadelphia region EV & T stores. I was not in attendance, but hearing about the good things EV&T is doing for the lgbt is very uplifting. Thanks.

Johnny

Support
Frank, thank you for your support and work that you do for the gay community. We appreciate the support from Central Voice.

Jayson Messner
Gentleman of Berks and Beyond

Awesome
Thank you for all of your support. Our ads and the article in Central Voice look awesome.

Phil Goropoulos
President/CEO
AIDS Community Alliance

Article
I've heard from several people that the York Little Theatre article is great. Thank you.

Deb Thro
Public Relations Manager

Thank you
Thank you for the article! Thanks for all the hard work you do for the entire community!

Yvonne Wilson
2009 Pride Parade Grand Marshal

Safe Nurse Staffing for Pennsylvania Patients – HB 1033

By Janet Haebler, MSN, RN

The American Nurses Association (ANA) is the only full-service professional organization representing the interests of the nation's 2.9 million registered nurses and the patients for whom they provide care. The ANA advances the nursing profession by lobbying the Congress and federal regulatory agencies and in supporting the work of its constituent member associations, such as the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association.

ANA commends the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association and sponsoring legislators for the introduction of HB 1033, amending the Health Care Facilities Act in an effort to address professional nurse staffing standards for the state. Few would disagree that nurses are integral to any health care system. Research consistently reports a connection between higher staffing levels by experienced nurses and lower rates of negative patient outcomes, such as infections, falls, and even death.

What has been debated is how many nurses are needed to provide safe, quality patient care. HB 1033 proposes a solution that ANA favors; that of a hospital wide staffing committee comprised of at least 50% direct care registered nurses, who with management, create staffing plans and related policies. The committee approach acknowledges that "one size does not fit all", providing healthcare facilities with flexibility based upon unique characteristics of patients, staff, and available resources (as with technology).

It's time to break the cycle. Nurse shortages lead to larger patient workloads which affect nurses' ability to provide quality care and subsequently lead to patient dissatisfaction and poor outcomes; nurse burnout, job dissatisfaction, ultimately staff turnover; and increased hospital costs for care, and nurse recruitment, orientation, and training. It has been determined that nurse replacement costs are between 1.1 and 1.6 times the salary of a nurse (median salary $60,010 in 2007).

The latest survey conducted by the ANA revealed that 73% of nurses viewed staffing on their units as insufficient. Almost half indicated they would not feel confident having someone close to them receive care in their facility. Nearly one-quarter of nurses say they are considering leaving their current position because of insufficient staffing.

As a recognized leader in health care reform, Pennsylvania can join six other states that have addressed safe staffing using the staffing committee approach in statute or regulations. The passage of HB 1033 is critical to improve patient care and safety and keep nurses in the profession.

lesbian notions

Political IQ:

The National Pratfall - March on Washington May Do More Harm Than Good

By Diane Silver

An LGBT march on Washington should be a great idea. It should energize the pro-equality community and rally the nation. It should move the president and push Congress into repealing all those laws that punish us for the "crimes" of living and loving while queer.

The Oct. 11 National Equality March, spearheaded by longtime activist Cleve Jones, should do all those things, but I fear it won't. Even worse, the event could damage the movement at a pivotal time.

That's because the march has a fatal flaw: It asks LGBT Americans and allies to waste time, money and energy traveling to Washington, D.C., when we need to stay home and organize in our own backyards.

This flaw is born from a fundamental misunderstanding of how change comes to the Capitol. D.C.-based lobbying is important, but true change only arrives via events that happen far outside the Beltway.

Here's the hard truth: No one wins a vote in the House of Representatives or the Senate until they've changed attitudes in places that are dozens, hundreds and thousands of miles from Capitol Hill. All the visits to Congress and all the rallies on the National Mall aren't half as important as what happens in Des Moines, Fresno, Baltimore, Dallas, Boston and hundreds of other places in the country.

Take the case of Democrat Nancy Pelosi. Why do you suppose the Speaker of the House is pro-LGBT? Is it because she is a saint who supports our cause even when her constituents don't? Not exactly.

Since 1987 Pelosi has represented the 8th District of California, which encompasses the Castro. Not only does her district include the highest number of same-sex couples in the nation, but it has also been the site of the most sustained LGBT organizing effort in history.

Beginning in the 1960s, continuing with Harvey Milk's campaigns, moving through AIDS activism and up to today, the 8th provides a model of how LGBT people can organize locally. These days an anti-LGBT politician could neither get elected nor stay in office in the California 8th.

Here's a political pop quiz.

Question: When will the Defense of Marriage Act, the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" ban on lesbians and gays in the military and other discriminatory laws be repealed?

Answer: When 219 members of the House and 60 senators realize that their constituents no longer support politicians who work against equality. Those numbers are the votes needed to pass legislation and send it to President Barack Obama for his signature.

Although march leaders say they intend to organize all 435 Congressional districts, pulling people out of their hometowns and sending them on a costly trip won't do that. If only 5,000 people attend the march and each one spends a mere $500 on travel expenses, this one event will burn through $2.5 million that could have been put into local organizing.

The cost is worrisome in the midst of a record-breaking recession. An upcoming vote on marriage equality in Maine and another possible vote in California also need all the financial support we can provide.

March organizers aren't villains, and they're not fools. I've long admired politico David Mixner, who first raised the possibility of a march; organizer Torie Osborn, former executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force; and Cleve Jones.

The California 8th wouldn't be what it is today without Jones. He also helped transform attitudes about AIDS and gave people a way to cope with the epidemic's emotional devastation by founding The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt.

On this project, though, I respectfully disagree with my three heroes.

Mixner blogged that "having matured into a full-fledged civil rights movement, it is essential that our community move outside its own comfort zone." If I'm reading him correctly, he's talking about the march and bringing straight friends and allies with us to D.C.

Once again, I respectfully disagree. I don't think that joining a anonymous crowd in a gay-friendly city like Washington, D.C., takes much courage, even if we drag our straight family and friends along.

For LGBT people and our allies in Missouri, Maine and other states that control key votes in Congress, moving outside our comfort zones means demonstrating in our own backyards. These often-conservative places are where our voices – and the voices of our straight family and friends – must be heard.

An LGBT march on Washington should be a great idea. Sometime in the future it might be. Just not today.

Diane Silver is a former newspaper reporter and magazine editor, whose work has appeared in The Progressive, Salon.com, Ms, and other national publications. She can be reached care of this publication or at PoliticalIQ@qsyndicate.com.

Sean Maloney Joins Community Center Staff

"We're no longer a conversation. We're action and activity," says Sean Maloney, recently appointed interim program director of The LBGT Community Center Coalition of Central Pennsylvania.

The Center Coalition reflects several years of needs assessment and intentional planning led first by the Equity for Gays and Lesbians (EGAL) Fund of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC) and eventually by an independent Board of Directors. In January 2009, the Coalition and well-known youth organization Common Roads merged operations. The merger allowed each to keep its distinct identity and mission but be joined at the administrative level. Common Roads is now the service arm of the Coalition, and the single unified Board is working to create a venue from which other, and potentially, many, community-based organizations can function.

> *"We're action and activity," says Sean Maloney.*

"The LGBT Community Center Coalition is ready to take on the challenge of adult event programming, and to show our commitment we have hired Sean Maloney," explained Coalition Board president, Ted Martin. "In his new position, Sean will be responsible for implementing programming for adults in the eight county region of central Pennsylvania that the Center serves. By tackling this challenge, we hope to expand our reach to all members of the community with creative programs that meet the social, spiritual and educational needs so many of us look for. We are very excited. This is an extremely positive step forward for the organization."

Maloney's experience will be key to the work that needs to occur to get Center programming up and running. "I have experience in opening a community center in a rural area, developing applicable programming, and unifying communities around common goals," he explained.

"Now is not the time for the community to sit back and say a community center can never happen here." Maloney has a Masters Degree from Syracuse University in Social Work and a Bachelors Degree from Binghamton University in Human Development. While at SU, he worked for two years as a member of the senior staff of the LGBT Resource Center on campus. He also worked at the Syracuse Designated AIDS Center. Prior to Syracuse, Maloney was LGBT Outreach Educator at the Southern Tier AIDS Program in Binghamton, NY. He is an experienced community organizer.

Sean Maloney

"Right now we need community groups and organizations to get on board. We need good old fashioned 'buy in' from stakeholders," Maloney stresses. He describes the center as a "uniting force" for the region's lgbt community. "The center is a potential place where the area's diverse lgbt groups can come together, share space if needed, share marketing, share resources," he explains.

Currently, the Center Coalition is the umbrella under which operates youth group Common Roads, with Harrisburg and Lancaster bases of operation and a strong alliance with York's CURVE youth organization. "For the adult LGBT Community and their allies, we are bringing back the ever-popular FAB benefit on Nov. 14," Maloney says. "It is going to be just terrific. Really a must-do for the Fall." The Center also operates a web site that functions as a "clearinghouse" for events and resources. Coming in the20near future are events and services coordinated under the Center Coalition's umbrella with a book club and leadership training for lgbt leaders and organizations only the first of many programs to come this Fall and Winter.

"We have a strong and sincere commitment to exploring programs for women and communities of color," Maloney says. Traditionally, those two groups often are underserved in programming efforts.

Any individual, group, or organization interested in more information, volunteering or wanting to make a donation is welcome to contact Maloney directly at 920-9534; www.centralpalgbtcenter.org.

Role of State Government con't'd

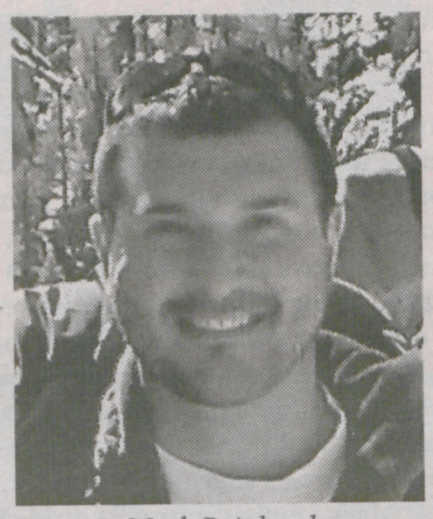
your voice

that produce, at best, few and temporary jobs.

Yes, there is opportunity in this crisis. Now that a stopgap budget has been passed allowing the state to pay its employees and vendors time should be taken to not just look at proposed spending increases, but to reassess whether we can afford to keep doing all the things we are doing. We must come to grips with the need to limit the size, scope and expense of state government. California faced a much bigger budget deficit and did just that; Pennsylvania should do the same.

(Lowman S. Henry is Chairman & CEO of the Lincoln Institute and host of the weekly Lincoln Radio Journal. His e-mail address is lhenry@lincolninstitute.org)

York's Mark Reinhard Opens Massage Practice



Mark Reinhard

York native and Nationally Certified (NCTMB) licensed massage practitioner Mark Reinhard recently opened Susquehanna Valley Massage and Body Work, located at 1417 E. Market St, a location known as the Spring Garden Healing Arts Building.

"Massage has long been proven to reduce stress, both emotional and physical, and is suggested in a regular program for stress management. My goal is to provide my clients with a massage designed with their needs and concerns in mind," says Reinhard.

With more than 637 hours of training, and several years of hands-on clinical experience, the 2008 Baltimore School of Massage graduate offers both traditional Swedish and Deep Tissue massage. "I intend to expand my offerings as I train in other massage modalities."

Reinhard, who has lived in Pittsburgh and Washington, DC, is highly educated with degrees from West Virginia University and Pittsburgh's Carlow College. Additionally, he has more than 18 years of experience in the healthcare arena. He is currently a certified clinical perfusionist, a vital team member of an open heart surgery program.

To make an appointment, go to his website www.svmab.com or email mreinhardmt@gmail.com; or call 717-650-1859.

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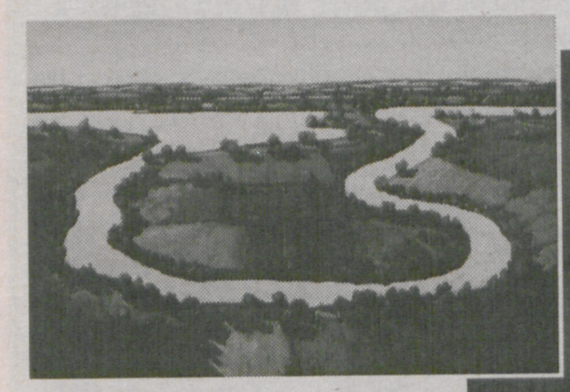
Keystone National 2009 Exhibition: Juried Works on Paper

September 26 to November 6
Reception: Sat, Sept 26, 5 to 7 pm



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Community Remembers Pride Chair David Walker

Nearly 70-strong gathered July 5 to celebrate and remember the extraordinary life of David Walker.

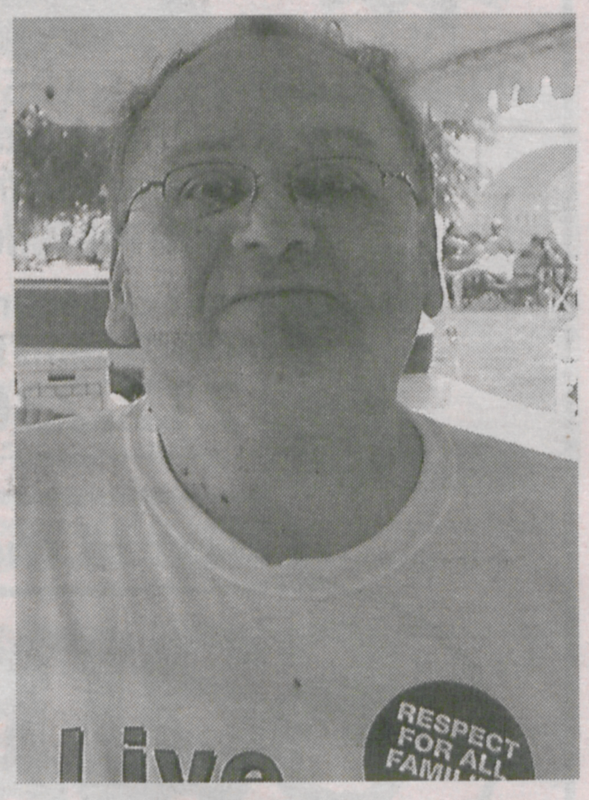
Born April 4, 1952, Walker died June 12 from late stage stomach cancer. As in life, he was surrounded by people who loved him.

Organizations and individuals from across the rainbow spectrum assembled in Harrisburg's Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit for a service led by Interim Pastor Rev. Charles Tigard. Noting that Walker was their official "groupie," Harrisburg Men's Chorus rendered three meaningful selections that portrayed with song the essence of Walker's life of sacrifice and volunteering in his community.

His surviving partner, William O'Donnell, himself a member of the chorus, was joined in the pews by his father Jerry and mother Nancy. O'Donnell sang the same songs with the chorus earlier that day when the group entertained along the Susquehanna River for the city's American Music Festival. The chorus' invitation to perform this year, as they had the previous year, was special because last year a gospel group used their time to give a "sermon" about the "sins" of homosexuality. Dismayed, Harrisburg's parks and recreation director did not invite the gospel group back. Instead she asked the men's chorus to perform their usual songs of unity and inspiration. "David would have invited the gospel group into a dialogue. He'd have tried to ease the tensions through education," one person remarked after his service.

In keeping with Walker's notable sense of humor, those selected to remember him shared funny stories, a sharing that continued after the formal service in the church's dining room where those in attendance shared a meal provided by O'Donnell's family.

In his remarks, William's father Jerry was a three-dimensional example of how



David Walker

Walker's gentle talking with others often created understanding. "I'm a Republican fire-fighter from New Jersey. If you can get me to understand you doing pretty good," he said right off to an immediate outburst of laughter. He explained in the simple terms of a loving father "William is my son. I don't always understand everything. No parent does. But his partner David was always willing to talk and to respect our differences," he shared. He explained that when one fire-fighter calls another fire-fighter "brother" it means they trust each other with their lives. "We ended up calling each other 'brother,'" the senior O'Donnell said of Walker to a hushed room.

Walker's partner William O'Donnell shared that he missed "his cheerful, easygoing personality." Walker was always volunteering for something. Besides a multiyear volunteer, he was chair of Central PA Pride Festival 2006-2008, a founding member of Central PA Stonewall Democrats, active with Cumberland County Democrats, and Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit. He was the voice legions of callers first heard when they called the now defunct Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg.

"David inspired leaders of our community to achieve their best and to renew their diligence at working towards our common cause. He was never hostile or mean to me or anyone. We had arguments, but we were always able to work through them without losing sight of our love and respect for each other. I loved him, and he made me happy. He was a fantastic cook. He baked the best lasagna I have ever tasted. Simple, I know, but simple things count for a lot," O'Donnell said."

Mark Smith, Central PA Pride Parade Chair, emailed that "David was a kind and gentle soul. He was very supportive the second year of the parade when Dan Stroup was charged with forming a committee to work on the parade and raise necessary funds to cover expenses. We continued to work with David when Dan stepped down as parade chair and Donald (Smith's partner) took over. During that time period, David was instrumental in navigating Pride through the dissolution of the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg and out on it's own as a project under The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC).

At the end of the 2008 Pride Festival, Walker passed the torch. Smith offers this insight into the work of Walker: "As we celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion, I am grateful to those like the Stonewall Vets and later Harvey Milk who made it possible for the lgbt community to live outside the closet. I believe David's generation made it possible for my generation not to have to go the route of becoming involved with heterosexual marriage just because that's what society expected. I hope and believe that my generation is making it easier for lgbt youth to come out at an earlier age and even think about taking someone of the same-sex to the prom. I think David would be proud of the work the current Pride Board and committees are doing.

Close friend and confidant Dale Schauer also made those assembled laugh with his "David stories." They had become friends many years ago and shared endless hours of fun and food.

Dan Stroup, whom Walker had mentored as he produced the region's first Pride Parade, talked about how Walker had lovingly distracted him from his sister's terminal illness. Walker then showed up after her death to help him grieve with dignity.

Alanna Berger, representing Silent Witnesses, an organization that protects the lgbt community and its supporters from protestors in public spaces, said "In looking back over the past several years that I've worked on the Pride Committee, the one person who was a constant beacon was David Walker. We will all miss him. The Pride Committee had plans to honor him for all the years he dedicated to the festival, both as a volunteer and as president – and of course, we still will.

At Pride this year, Walker was honored…

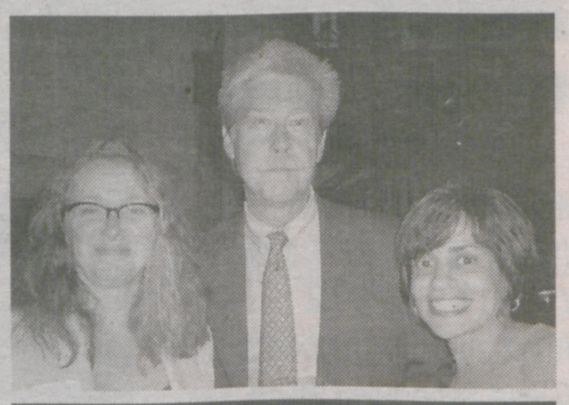
Walker is survived by his partner William O'Donnell, and a wide community of friends. He is the son of the late Elwood P. Walker and Gail (McConahy) Walker, who survives him. He is also the widower of M. Larue Walker and is also survived by his sister Kathleen E. Strong and her husband William C. Strong of Altoona, PA, and two brothers, Eugene R. Walker of Altoona, PA, and Kenneth P. Walker and his wife Judith of Vancouver, WA, three nephews, and one great-nephew.

Like it says on his t-shirt – Live, Love, Be Proud! We'll miss you David.

Chamber & Central Voice Attend Diversity Night

Central PA Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce and Central Voice attended the Harrisburg Regional Chamber of Commerce's Diversity Networking Night last June.

Business groups representing the region's Asian, Hispanic, African-American communities also attended.



The LGBT Community Center Coalition of central PA
requests the honor of your presence:

FAB

Fall Achievement Benefit

Saturday, November 14th 2009

Lancaster County Convention Center & Marriott at Penn Square, Lancaster, PA

Ticket Pricing

VIP Ticket $150 per person

VIP Ticket includes:
- VIP Reception
- Classic Reception
- Silent Auction
- Main Event & Dinner
- After-FAB Party Access
- 3x Complimentary Drink Tickets.

Classic Ticket $75 per person

Classic Ticket includes:
- Classic Reception
- Silent Auction
- Main Event & Dinner
- After-FAB Party Access
- Complimentary drink ticket

"I just wanna Dance!!" Ticket
$20 per person

Dance Only Ticket includes:
- Access to After-Party @ 10:00 pm
- Complimentary drink ticket

VIP Reception 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Enjoy mingling & meeting the evening's Special Guests, Hosts, LGBT Center Board Members, and local dignitaries and celebrities. The evening's high caliber atmosphere is kicked off with a performance by the truly talented jazz vocals of CoCo & Company. VIP ticket holders will have a sneak peek opportunity preview the silent auction & 15/15 art exhibit items. Available to VIP ticket holders only. Cash Bar & hors d'oeuvres.

Classic Reception 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Mingle with friends, and BID, BID, BID on the incredible silent auction items. The 15/15 Art Exhibit pieces will be also available for silent auction tonight! Meet new friends, and enjoy old friends. FAB 2009 is going to be a night of The talented sounds of Matthew Allison & Adrian Baule, flutists, will sift through the air as the night begins to take shape. Cash Bar & hors d'oeuvres.

Main Event & Dinner 7:00 p.m - 10:00 p.m.

A seated dinner will be served. Mistress of Ceremonies, Karen Gray will lead us through the evening's program: Video & Award Presentations & Special Guest, Eric Alva. VIP & Classic Tickets Only. Cash Bar.

After-FAB Party 10:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m

The night isn't over… and be sure to pack your dancing shoes. The party is just getting started with the iconic abilities of DJ Freez. Staging/Set Design/Lighting by Shumaker PDT.

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Patti Bucek

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Attorney Derek Cordier Hosts Chamber

Harrisburg-based attorney Derek Cordier tonight (July 16) hosted the Central PA Gay & Lesbian Community Center in his home/office on South Front St. About 40 members and guests gathered to network and enjoy each other's company. "I'm successful because of Central Voice," he says.

Local Playwright Tom Ford Seeks Talent for New Play

By Frank Pizzoli

"I'm ready to take my play to the next level by finding a local crew and cast to produce," says Middletown actor and playwright Tom Ford.

"Diary of Death" takes place in Cape Coral, FL and offers a slew of interesting and male, female, gay, and non-gay characters. "I'm imagining that each member of an audience will identify with one or more character," Ford says. As with many playwrights, characters are drawn from Ford's life experiences, and in some instances composites of more than one person previously known.

Tom Ford

A familiar face in the region's drama circles, Ford has acted at Camp Hill's Oyster Mill Playhouse, Hershey Area Playhouse. He has worked in television, both as a writer and actor playing father and son roles in his college soap opera, Summit Cove, filmed at and around Scranton's Marywood University and televised at the WVIA-TV, a PBS station.

He has appeared as Tony Kirby in You Can't Take It With You, dual roles of Roger Doremus and Archie Kramer in the Tennessee Williams play Summer and Smoke, King Aegisthus in the Greek tragedy Electra, Beelzebub in Tomorrow Morning Faustus and others. His other two Agatha Christie roles were performed at Oyster Mill: Murder at the Vicarage (2005) where he played suave, playboy artist (and murderer) Lawrence Redding, and Witness for the Prosecution (2007), portraying Leonard Vole, a womanizer (and murderer) who is arrested for his wealthy benefactor's demise, tried, acquitted and then gets murdered himself in the court room. "I seem to excel at evil characters," Ford says with a hearty laugh.

Contact Ford at tfordmustang1966@yahoo.com.

Not Your Dad's Networking Approach

George Fernandez and his business partner Jennil Salazar multitask with Olympic skill. Their ambitious business plan for G&J Event Planning requires both speed and precision.

"We did a five-day roll-out last August," explains Fernandez. "Our focus right now is working with the non-profit community," he says. Their corporate philosophy is to donate 5% of after-expense profit to community groups such as "We're United in PA," a Harrisburg-based, inner city endeavor.

Their fees include pre-event publicity, marketing, on-site photography, alcohol or no alcohol, and catering. "Our events are completely client driven," Fernandez says. "The unique feature of our service is that we use our existing invitation lists, lists from other sources, combined with a client's list to draw in the largest possible demographic."

Planting seeds and growing roots in the region's business community, Fernandez is active with Estamos Unidos de Pennsylvania, Harrisburg Rotary, Yowza, Shipley Energy, Amma Johnson, Latino Hispanic Professionals Association, Arthritis Foundation, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Harrisburg Young Professionals, Central PA Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, Business Professionals Social Circle; Pennsylvania Young Adult Roundtable.

Salazar is a real estate professional with Howard Hanna.

Contact: 717.433.1784; www.gandjevents.com

$8,000 First-time Buyer Break Expires Dec. 1

A tax credit of up to $8,000 is available for qualified first-time home buyers purchasing a principal residence on or after January 1, 2009 and before December 1, 2009.

"First-time home buyers purchasing any kind of home—new or resale—are eligible for the tax credit," says Prudential REALTOR® David Moyer. To qualify for the tax credit, a home purchase must occur on or after January 1, 2009 and before December 1, 2009.

The law defines "first-time home buyer" as a buyer who has not owned a principal residence during the three-year period prior to the purchase. "The tax credit is equal to 10 percent of the home's purchase price up to a maximum of $8,000," Moyer explains.

Contact: dmoyer@PrudentialHomesale.com; cell 717-503-5697.

Prudential

Ask us about the $8,000 first time homebuyer tax credit

David Moyer
REALTOR®
dmoyer@pruhomesaleservices.com
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2009 - 2010 SEASON
And... look for more throughout the year!

Raising the bar on Date Night

2009

Governor's Awards *for the* **Arts**
Thu., Oct. 1 | 7:00pm

Bob Newhart *
Fri., Oct. 2 | 7:30pm
Sponsored by: Glatfelter Insurance Group

***Camelot* ***
Wed., Oct. 7 | 7:30pm
Media sponsor: WITF-TV

Bill Haley's Comets, the Del-Vikings, Rico & the **Ravens** *50's Dance Party!*
Sat., Oct. 24 | 7:30pm

Colin Mochrie & Brad Sherwood
Sun., Nov. 15 | 7:30pm
Sponsored by: Wachovia, a Wells Fargo Company

Tap Dogs *
Wed., Nov. 18 | 7:30pm

If You Give a Pig a Pancake
& Other Story Books
Sun., Nov. 29 | 2:00pm

Tomáseen Foley's
***A Celtic Christmas* ***
Fri., Dec. 18 | 7:30pm
Sponsored by: Counsel Trust Company

***Cabaret* ***
Fri., Jan. 29 | 7:30pm
Sponsored by: Fulton Bank

Jungle Jack Hanna
Sat., Feb. 6 | 7:30pm

Kathleen Madigan *
Fri., Feb. 12 | 7:30pm

The Little Engine That Could
Sat., Mar. 6 | 2:00pm
Media sponsor: WITF TV

Paula Poundstone *
Fri., Mar. 12 | 7:30pm
Media sponsor: WITF-FM 89.5

Le Grand Cirque
Sun., Mar. 21 | 7:00pm
Sponsored by: M & T Bank

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Celebrate our 30th Anniversary!
Sun., Apr. 11 | 7:30pm

Harold & the Purple Crayon
Tue., Apr. 20 | 10:00am

The Four Bitchin' Babes®
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The Tartan Terrors
Sat., May 1 | 7:30pm

Golden Dragon Acrobats
Fri., May 21 | 7:30pm
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Excitement Video & Toys Hosts 45 at Alternative Night

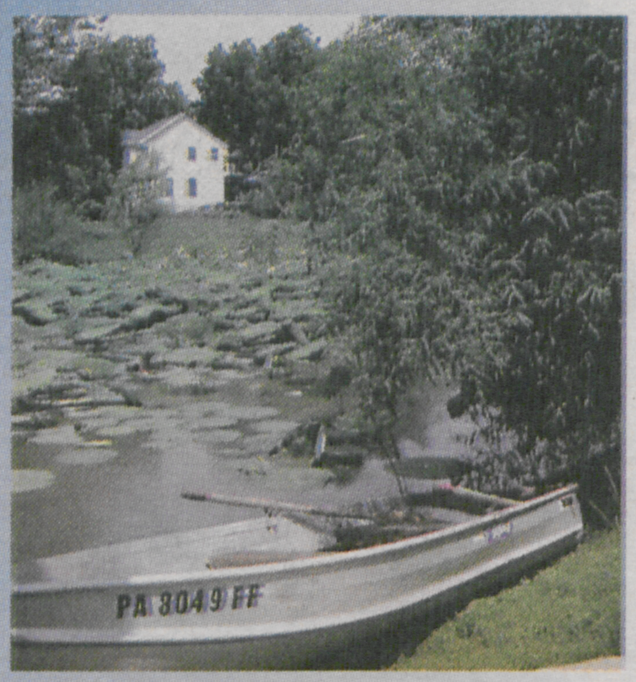
With 45 in attendance, Excitement Video & Toys, 3910 Jonestown Road, Harrisburg, hosted another successful Alternative Night. The evening was hosted by Buffy Buffington.

York certified massage therapist David Ostrowski provides free tabletop back massages for attendees. Stallions Entertainment Complex and Brownstone Lounge provide light refreshments.

EV once again had its popular dive for cash with valuable prizes redeemable right on the spot. "We offered prizes, discounts, and refreshments," says Harrisburg manager Keith Sattizahn. The items were provided by Brownstone's Lounge and Stallion's Entertainment Complex.

"We're a full-service and professional retail environment to the lgbt community," says Kim Faubel, Excitement Video regional manager. "We want the community to know they're welcome here." The adult entertainment outlet offers DVD titles, toys, and quality lotions, liquids, and playful items, in association with Adult Video News.

Info: www.excitementvideo.com



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LGBT Community Center Starts New Programming

Sean Maloney

The LGBT Community Center is proud to unveil its new series of adult programs throughout its eight county service area. Programs coming from the center will fill social, educational and spiritual needs of the LGBT Community in Central Pennsylvania.

Book Clubs

During September and October, all three book clubs will start with "A Seahorse Year" by Stacey D'Erasmo and "Light Fell" by Evan Fallenberg. See Dauphin County Library's Book Review by Lewis Maurer for full book descriptions.

Following these two selections, members of the club will chose from a list that they help create for two months ahead at a time. The clubs will meet at locations in Harrisburg, Lancaster and York, and will meet once a month. Titles can also be found at our webpage, www.centralpalgbtcenter.org. Please call Sean Maloney at the LGBT Center with questions, (717) 920-9534).

Outdoors Club

Each month the LGBT Center will organize a group of interested people to travel throughout central Pennsylvania in order to explore the vast opportunities of outdoor adventures. Activities will range from hiking to skiing, and from white water rafting to ghostly tours. Please visit www.centralpalgbtcenter.org for program details and information.

Gallery Opening

The LGBT Center is proud to partner with the Paper Lion Gallery to feature an lgbt artist in the month of September. The opening provides a great opportunity for members of the community to come learn more about what artful opportunities there are in Harrisburg, as well as meet an up-and-coming artist. Sept. 25, 6 p.m., Paper Lion Gallery, 1217 Hummel Ave, Lemoyne.

Singles Mixers

Club XS and the LGBT Center are proud to bring central Pennsylvania new and exciting dating opportunities for singles in the area. This will be a great opportunity to bring your friends, relax in a comfortable atmosphere, and meet some likeminded folks who just might be the one you've been looking for. Whether you make new friends, or meet a future partner this will be sure to add some excitement to your life!

Shy Girl Social – Tues., Sept. 1, 8-10 p.m., Club XS, 36 W. 11th Ave, York.

Gay Men's Speed Dating – Wed., Sept. 2, 8-10 p.m., Club XS, 36 W. 11th Ave, York.

Info: Contact Sean Maloney, Interim Program Director, LGBT Community Center Coalition, smaloney@centralpalgbtcenter.org, (717) 920-9534.

Harrisburg Men's Chorus entertained at Harrisburg's American Music Festival last summer. The chorus' invitation to perform this year, as they had the previous year, was special because last year a gospel group used their time to give a "sermon" about the "sins" of homosexuality. Dismayed, Harrisburg's parks and recreation director did not invite the gospel group back. Instead she asked the men's chorus to perform their usual songs of unity and inspiration.

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Men4Men a Hit at Pride

David Payne

I wanted to thank everyone who visited the Men-4Men booth during Harrisburg Pride.

At Pride we distributed lots of information about our services and upcoming events. We also received good feedback for our mobile rapid testing events, as well as the testing that was going on that day. When we let people know that testing was being offered, close to two dozen signed up that day, and many others asked us about testing events in the future. This tells us that our public is responsive to these types of activities, which is a good reason to schedule several similar events in the future.

Last month, we attended "Tuxedo Night at Stallions" Aug. 21. This month you'll see us Sept. 12 Altland's Ranch, 8505 Orchard Road, Spring Grove from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. On Sept. 21, we'll be at MCC of the Spirit, 2973 Jefferson St, Harrisburg from noon to 5 p.m. We're also working with Vision of Hope MCC, Main Street, Mountville, Lancaster County, for a testing event. In the meantime, I'll continue to make the rounds of the bars and clubs in Dauphin, Lancaster, and York counties, hand out safer sex kits and answer any questions or address concerns.

I also wanted to mention something about younger men.

According to the CDC men between the ages of 13 and 24 accounted for 54-percent of new HIV infections in the US between 2003 and 2006. It's more important than ever for younger men to know their status and we continue to develop and provide effective messages to explain the importance of knowing one's HIV status. Look for us on Facebook and MySpace, join our group and become fans of the Men4Men page. Let us know what's on your mind when it comes to staying healthy and maintaining good sexual relationships. Tell us how you think we can get through to people.

Some of the materials we're distributing are designed to catch your eye and surprise you, but it's also designed to get people thinking, and, more importantly, talking. We want to know if it's working and most importantly what it will take for people to decrease their risk of HIV by moving towards more healthy sexual behavior.

I recently received a call from the leadership at Common Roads, the Harrisburg area's GLBTQ youth group and affiliated with The LGBT Community Center Coalition. They have offered their assistance in putting together safer sex kits which we use as part of our outreach to the community. My thanks to Louie Marven and all the youth at Common Roads.

Recent advances in HIV medications may be sending a mixed message. While it's always encouraging to read stories of people once near death now thriving thanks to the meds, many younger men are under the impression that AIDS is over, or that if they get infected, they're only a pill away from continued good health, hot having to worry about getting sick. We need to continue emphasizing the message HIV/AIDS is still an incurable disease; that medications, while effective are expensive and carry side effects, and HIV/AIDS is still 100-percent preventable. Our mission is an ongoing - to reach our target population (men who have sex with men) wherever they are and in as many effective ways we can.

Contact: David Payne @ david@aca-pa.com; 717-233-7190. M4M is a component of AIDS Community Alliance.

Adult Autism Services Now Available

Keystone Autism Services unveils first Adult Community Autism Program (ACAP).

ACAP provides support services to adults, 21 years or older, living with an Autism Spectrum Disorder and residing in Chester, Cumberland, Dauphin or Lancaster County. The service provides coordination of counseling supports, job readiness and community involvement, as well as resources in the areas of medical and dental services and each service is based on the individuals' abilities and needs.

If you or someone you know is having difficulty developing peer or other significant relationships, regulating social and behavioral interactions or have restricted interests that prevent you from participating fully in your community, this program might be for you.

Many adults don't have a "diagnosis" of Autism Spectrum Disorder because it is a fairly new term. Keystone encourages people to contact Keystone Autism Services for further information about how this program might meet their needs. Contact 717-412-7400; www.keystoneautismservices.org

ACAP is a program developed by the Department of Public Welfare, Bureau of Autism Services and operated by Keystone Autism Services (KAS). KAS is a nonprofit agency and is part of Keystone Human Services.

arts & entertainment

FULTON OPERA HOUSE

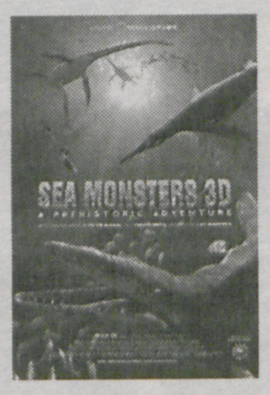
Hello, Dolly!
Sept. 3 – 27
Box office 717-397-7425 or online. Located 12 N. Prince St., Lancaster

WHITAKER CENTER

Harsco Science Center

Invention at Play - Through Sept. 7
Did you know that the Popsicle® was invented by an 11-year old boy? That Velcro® was inspired by burrs that got caught on a dog's fur, or the first drinking straw was made of glass? Created by the Smithsonian's National Museum of History, Invention at Play is a fun, exciting and hands-on exhibit that celebrates the imagination and creativity of children. All ages.

Select Medical IMAX Theater



Sea Monsters 3D: A Prehistoric Adventure
Through October
National Geographic Cinema Ventures presents a journey deep in time to a lost age and a prehistoric world. Follow a dolichorhynchops familiarly known as 'dolly' as she travels through the most dangerous oceans in history, encountering giant turtles, enormous fish, fierce sharks, and the most dangerous sea monster of all, the mosasaur. Running Time: Approx. 40 min. MPAA Rating: G. Standard IMAX pricing applies.

Upcoming Performers
Friday, September 18, 2009
An Evening with David Garrett
Internationally acclaimed virtuoso violinist
Sunoco Performance Theater, 8pm
Proudly presented by Whitaker Center and WITF, Inc.

YORK LITTLE THEATRE

Forbidden Broadway: Greatest Hits
Sept. 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19 at 8 p.m.
Sept. 6, 13, and 20 at 3 p.m.
Fast, funny, smart and entertaining; this loving lampoon of Broadway's greatest moments pays tribute to its hit musicals and top performers.
Eric Bradley Long and Friends
Sept. 25 & 26; 7 p.m.
York Little Theatre's Bill and Leslie Powell Cabaret Series presents great performances and memorable music in an intimate studio setting.
York Little Theatre
27 S. Belmont St. York 17403
717-854-5715
www.ylt.org

STRAND CAPITOL

November 18, 7:30 p.m.
Tap Dogs - This international sensation is back after a previously sold out performance and ready to leave dents on the Strand Theatre stage...again. 11 International Awards!
Tickets: $38, $48, $58 (Fees apply.)
Pre-show dinner option available.
The Capitol Theatre, 50 N. George St. York, www.strandcapitol.org, 846-1111

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October 9, 10-11

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The beauty of their music will last long in your memory and your soul.
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GARDEN GALLERY

Sherry Tinsman Trunk Show
Sept. 25 – 5-8 p.m.;
Sept. 26 – 11 a.m.- 4 p.m.
Men & Women's Jewelery
Garden Gallery, 10 N. Hanover St., Carlisle
www.thegardengallery.com; 249-1721

Award-winning Lesbian Writer Radclyffe at Muhlenberg College Sept. 24

Award-winning author of lesbian fiction, Radclyffe, is at Muhlenberg College Thurs., Sept. 24, 7 p.m.

Location: Trexler Library Level A (Periodicals Reading Room).

She will read from her latest book, "Secrets in the Stone."

Signed copies of Radclyffe's books available for purchase.

Refreshments served. Open to the public.

Co-sponsored by LGBT Campus Coordinator and Trexler Library.

PRIDE FESTIVAL - LANCASTER • JUNE 2009

PRIDE FESTIVAL - READING • JUNE 2009

PRIDE FESTIVAL OF CENTRAL PA • JULY 2009

2009 Pride Festival & Parade of Central PA came off without as much as a piece of lint in its way. Thousands thronged downtown Harrisburg for the region's biggest lgbt event of the year. The venue drew more sitting elected officials and individuals running for office than there were beads. Due to the state budget snafu, Gov. Ed Rendell did not make his annual walk in the parade.

FOR MORE PRIDE PHOTOS AND STORIES SEE PAGES 28, 29, 34 >

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PHILADELPHIA ...

Blue Ball, Film & Art

Blue Ball Circuit Party
Blue Ball Oct. 7-11, National Constitution Center. Various (ticketed individually or together). First held in 1991, the Blue Ball at the National Constitution Center is one of the biggest and longest-running circuit parties in the world - not to mention a major date on Philadelphia's gay calendar and an important fundraiser. Full details are available on the Blue Ball website. http://blueball.sapphirefund.org

Film
Through October - The FirstGlance Film Festival has been showing in Philadelphia in addition to its other home, Los Angeles, since 1998, and is regarded as one of the finest bi-coastal film festivals. A showcase for film and video, the FirstGlance Philadelphia Film Festival features talks with up-and-coming talented directors, actors and producers. Both students and professionals showcase feature films, documentaries, short films, animation and experimental work, with those in attendance voting for the winners. As well as a great line-up of guests, there is an opening-night party and an awards ceremony. There are a number of separate program with at least 50 films on the bill. http://www.firstglancefilms.com

Art
Through October - Celebrating the 40th anniversary of Duchamp's Étant donnés going on public display at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, this exhibition consists of Duchamp's extraordinary assemblage, along with close to 80 works of art related to its instalment.

Marcel Duchamp's enigmatic assemblage Étant donnés: 1. La chute d'eau, 2. Le gaz d'éclairage (Given: 1. The Waterfall, 2. The Illuminating Gas) has been described by the artist Jasper Johns as "the strangest work of art in any museum" but is not simply a shock piece. Offering an unforgettable and untranslatable experience to those who peer through the two small holes in the solid wooden door this exhibition expands upon the experience of Duchamp's final masterpiece.

GALLERY Blu
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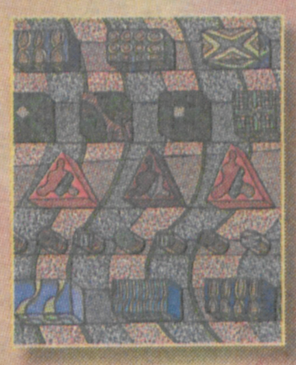
REDUCE/REUSE/RECYCLE SHOW
Opening for Gallery Walk
September 13



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Sunday, Sept. 13
11am - 6pm
wxpn The Patriot-News FLEX

Free Admission
Call for details

STRUCTURES
AAH Fall Membership Exhibiion
Sept. 13-Oct. 15
☆☆☆
AAH Fall Classes for Adults/Children
starting Sept. 14
☆☆☆
4-Artist Invitational Exhibition
Oct. 23-Nov. 25
All events and class schedule are online at:
www.artassocofhbg.com

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the artwork of J. A. Bowermaster

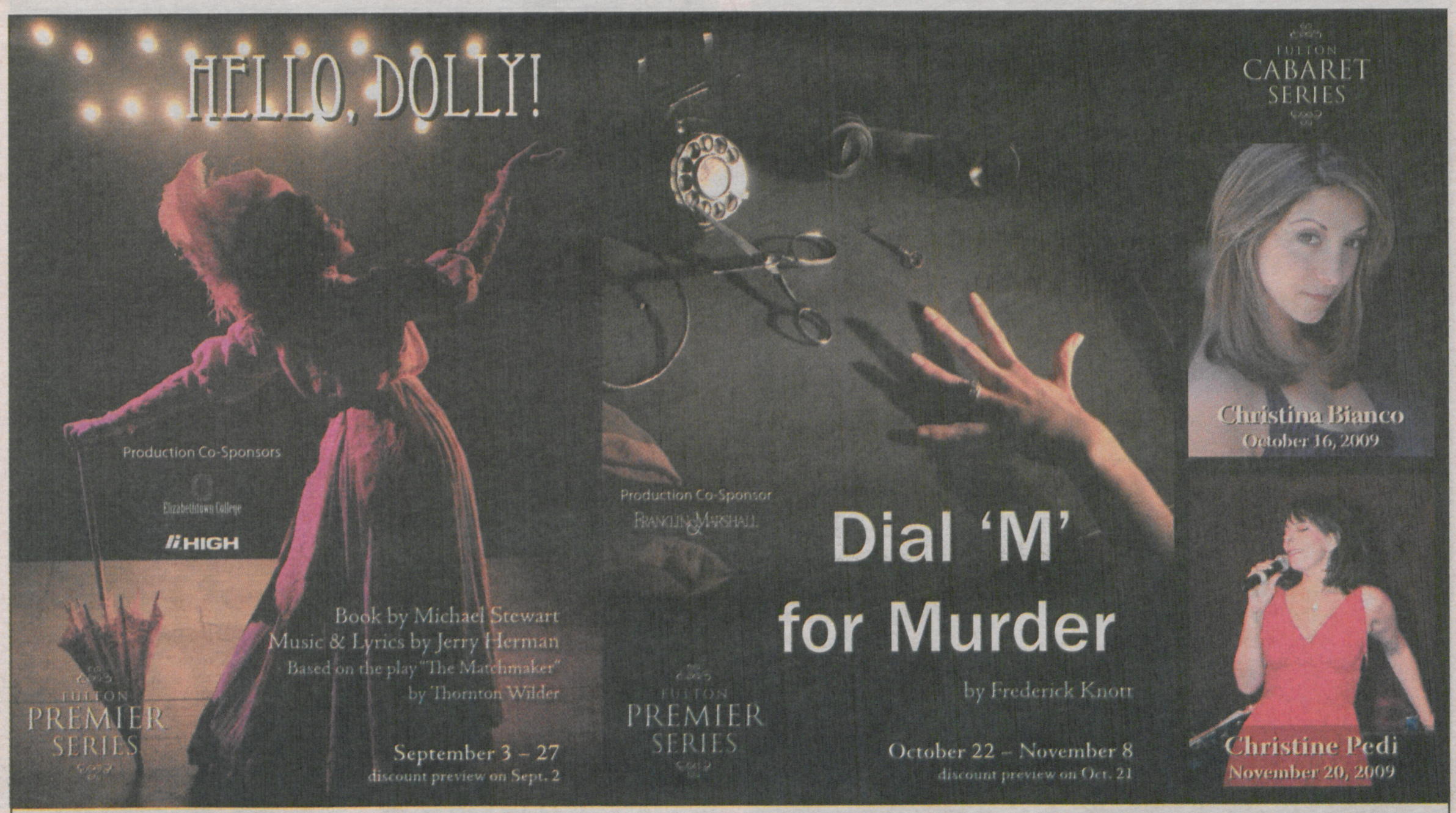
My name is John Bowermaster; I'm a 39 year old man who lives in Harrisburg, Pa and member of the Art Association of Harrisburg since 2005...in addition to my working with the Art Association, I've also had the pleasure of working with various other Charitable Groups such as Common Roads, Aids Community Alliance, PAWS of PA, Habitat for Humanity of Harrisburg, Humane Society of Harrisburg, and Hershey Medical Center just to name a few.

Over the last several months my works have been shown in many different venues such as Hershey Medical Center, Dauphin County Courthouse, Gallery at Walnut Place, Mansion at Reservoir Park, Stocks on 2nd, Molly Branigans, Appalachian Brewing Company, and the Art Association of Harrisburg.

I'm producing Canvas, Optical Acrylics/Oil-on-Glass, Mixed Media, and now, Collage.

The unique thing about the glass paintings I create, is that they have the ability to "live on light" meaning that as the light throughout the day changes, both your Optical Oil and Optical Acrylic-on-Glass paintings will change as well, right before your very eyes. The result is deep, vibrantly double-dipped colors that form swirling, blending, three-dimensional layers of varying thickness and thinness which effortlessly dance between deepest darkness and sparkling light, and magically shape shift form as the light falling upon them changes strength and ability to penetrate the different layers of paint revealing endlessly changing combinations of paint layers and the paintings are forever changing throughout the day; they are not the same painting in the light of morning, noon, or night. They are alive, and ever-changing.

321 S. 29th St., Harrisburg, PA 17104-1507 • Phone 717.230.8518
Web site: http://www.travelingwithoutmoving.info/
E-mail: artbear1@comcast.net



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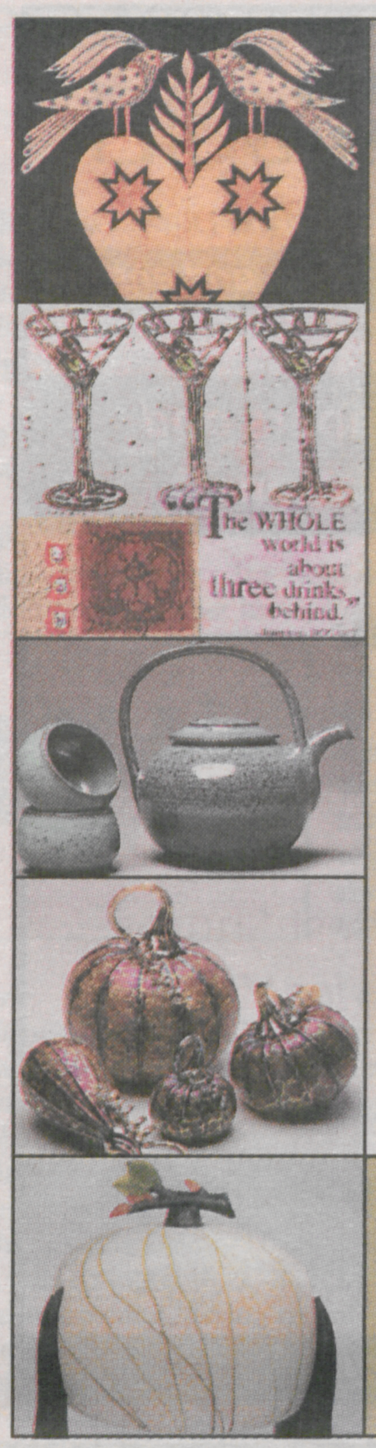

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Alexander Kerr, violin
Dvorak • Symphony No. 9 "From The New World"

Capital BlueCross Pops Series Premiere!
Fantasy & Adventure
October 24 - 25

From superheroes and outlaws to dragons and pirates, Hollywood's best films never fail to thrill and amaze us! Join Maestro Malina as he launches the Capital BlueCross Pops series with music from Batman, the James Bond films, Mission: Impossible, Spartacus, and Harry Potter.

Tickets at HarrisburgSymphony.org or by calling (717) 545-5527.

Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra
STUART MALINA, *Music Director*

WITF

MCC column

Out in Our Faith Communities

Charles Tigard

Rev. Charles Tigard
Interim Pastor, MCC, Harrisburg

40 years after Stonewall our community continues to make important strides for justice and equality.

One important victory is the increasing number of faith communities that not only accept us, but celebrate our lives and contributions in ministry.

Recently the US Episcopal Church lifted a moratorium on nominating openly lesbian women and gay men to serve as bishops, allowed bishops to bless same sex unions, and began to gather resources for liturgies to celebrate lesbian and gay unions. After many years of study and debate the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) will decide in August if gay non-celibate clergy can serve openly.

As more congregations have become open to our lives and voices, even in the heart of Pennsylvania, lgbt people of faith have many options in choosing a spiritual community.

As an openly gay man and a Christian minister, I know our faith communities need us as much as we need them. Our unique and beautiful gifts make our synagogues, churches, and mosques more complete reflections of who God is.

Being out in your faith community is vital for lgbt justice and inclusion and is life giving for our straight friends and allies. When communities begin to engage an honest dialogue on human sexuality they become more healthy and authentic for all.

When Metropolitan Community Church was founded in 1968, a year before the Stonewall riots, lgbt people had few to places in which to worship openly. MCC's existence as a lgbt identified congregation was revolutionary.

Today increasing numbers of lgbt clergy serve openly. Mainline denominations have slowly moved beyond a conversation about the church and homosexuality toward celebrating the witness of lgbt people. Although this dialogue has been fraught with bitter divisiveness, enormous progress has been made within the last several years.

Still not all of us can live openly. In our own state of Pennsylvania we must work to pass House Bill 300. Being out and safe begins with basic protection from discrimination in employment, housing, and education.

Several years ago The Human Rights Campaign (www.hrc.org) launched a Religion & Faith program. HRC has developed excellent resources for welcoming congregations and lgbt people of faith. HRC's resource, "Living Openly in Your Place of Worship" is an excellent guide to begin this conversation.

Here are some ways you can prayerfully take a stand within your community of faith:

Being Out in Your Faith Community

1. Acknowledge your sexuality as a gift from God

2. Know that your presence and full participation is important for you and for your community. Our synagogues, churches, and mosques need us and our witness.

3. Educate yourself about your faith community's policies and beliefs regarding human sexuality and ways you can work for change

Our work for justice and inclusion within communities of faith has forever changed the religious dialogue and perceptions of lgbt people. Our struggle is part of God's story.

Let's be empowered to tell our story with honesty until all places of worship are safe reflections of God's love and light.

Charles Tigard serves as Interim Pastor of Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit, Harrisburg MCCoftheSpirit.org He has worked for MCC since 1999, serving congregations in California, Florida, and Pennsylvania.

ARTS at 510 Open Gallery Walk Day

Susan Schreckengaust, owner of Arts at 510, 510 N. Third Street, Harrisburg, will participate with a new exhibit in Gallery Walk Day Sept. 13. The exhibit runs through Sept. 30. The new show features paintings by Susan Biebuyck and wood sculptures by Mark Irwin.

Susan Biebuyck is widely known for using classic art techniques. She studied at Kutztown University where her passion for continual and evolving styles that have earned her high praise. As part of Goggle-Works Center for the Arts in Reading, her paintings and pastels fill the Studio 205 and Gallery 203. Her works have been included in several national and international collections and garnered numerous awards. For this exhibit she uses a variety of mediums to paint "naughty" foods like chocolate, donuts, cakes and pies. In addition, she will show Pennsylvania landscapes in oil that capture the true beauty that nature provides.

Mark Irwin takes wood sculptures to new heights which evoke a sensual fluidity not usually seen in wood sculptures. Using mostly Pennsylvania hardwoods, Mark works from his Irwin Sculpture Studio in Danville, PA. Be prepared to be surprised at the depth of his interpretations, careful attention to detail and elaborate finishing touches created not only from his design, but also by the shellac process that finalizes the true beauty of his works.

ARTS at 510 is open Tues.- Fri. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.; 717.724.0364; www.artsat510.com.

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For Science and the Arts
Upcoming Performances

An Evening with David Garrett
Friday, September 18, 8pm
Internationally acclaimed virtuoso violinist
Proudly presented by
Whitaker Center and WITF, Inc.

An afternoon with Garrison Keillor
Lake Wobegon Days
Sunday, September 20, 4pm
Best-selling author and host of *A Prairie Home Companion* presenting his hilarious commentary on *Lake Wobegon Days.*

XPN Welcomes
Indigo Girls
Thursday, October 1, 7:30pm
American folk rock duo

Najee's Smooth Side of Soul
with Maysa and Alex Bugnon
Friday, October 16, 8pm
With two platinum and four gold albums, soul artist Najee has pioneered the rise in popularity of contemporary jazz.

Tickets: whitakercenter.org or 717/214-ARTS | 222 Market St, Hbg

Art Association Presents 4-artist Invitational

Pastels, photographs, and oil paintings go on view at the Art Association of Harrisburg with a public reception Oct. 23, 5- 8 p.m. Artists Teresa DeSeve of Collegeville, Michelle Roberts of Harrisburg, Jeffrey Martin of Port Treverton, and Charlotte Shroyer of Taos, NM, exhibit their works and are on hand to discuss them with reception attendees.

Music for the reception is provided by a young duo of guitar and ukelele musicians known as "Old Time Burials". Leisa and Steve Craver are reception hosts. The 4-artist invitational exhibition remains on view through Nov. 25 at 21 N. Front St., Harrisburg.

Teresa DeSeve, born in Beloit, Wisconsin, in 1948, discovered early on that she loved drawing and creating things. Moving to Pennsylvania at age 15, DeSeve was often called upon to do art projects for her classes. She attended the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia, eventually earning her BFA from Rosemont College in painting. A busy family life precluded her pursuing her artistic career for more than 25 years, but when she rediscovered her art she found pastels were her medium of choice. Currently DeSeve teaches pastel at the Wayne Art Centre and the Norristown Art League, and has been twice selected in the National Pastel 100 Competition. She states that her paintings explore the spiritual side of human existence, with the element of light the language which allows her to convey the struggle to "emerge from darkness."

Jeffrey Martin's approach to painting is simple and straightforward, treating all his subjects as "portraits," whether they be human, animal or vegetable. He enjoys the challenge of creating form and texture on a two-dimensional surface using the effect of light as it plays across the form. Martin holds his BA in English Education from Susquehanna University, his MFA in Painting and Drawing from Penn State University, and also studied at the New York Art Students League.Jeffrey Martin has painted a myriad of portraits of prominent public figures, and is the recipient of numerous awards.

Michelle Robert's photography mirrors herself as an individual, with styles ranging from dark and moody to light-hearted nature and pet documentary images. Her media of choice are black-and-white silver traditional and digital color, sepia, or black-and-white. A long-time afficianado of the natural world, Roberts often captures unique subjects and the interplay of light, shadows and reflections. Her depictions of the human form range from simple abstract patterns of light, to emotive work, to ventures into complex erotic imagery. The element of the subconscious is always present, with shadowy storytelling often in evidence. She studied photography at Harrisburg Area Community College and with private instructors.

Charlotte Shroyer's passionate painting process begins with a few swipes of oil on her canvas, and then the "symphony begins." Triggered by subconscious memories, figures begin to emerge from the fringes of the picture plane, creating images of places, people and times she's never known in reality. She insists that many of the figures in her paintings "appear on my canvas as if demanding to be seen and to have their stories told in our contemporary society, "with her complying as she pushes colors and forms around their emerging images. Shroyer holds her BA from Ohio State University, her M.Ed. and Ph.D. from University of Pittsburgh, and has continued her studies at a variety of other universities.

"Old Time Burials" are a folk duo from Harrisburg, with Justin Arawjo on guitar and vocals, and Andrew Hermeling on ukulele, glockenspiel and vocals. They whisper and wail from green valleys and dark hollows, conjuring images of a world gone by, or one that never was. The duo formed in 2006 as an outlet for both members' songwriting and has been going strong ever since. The band's sound is influenced by traditional American and world folk music, as well as the psych-folk movement of the last decade, creating something familiar and comforting, but at the same time new and challenging. "Old Time Burials" shows are an intimate, participatory experience, often including storytelling and conversation with their audience. In fact, the band is much more at home playing in a living room, around a campfire, or in an art gallery than in any bar or concert hall.

Info: 717-236-1432; www.artassocofhbg.com.

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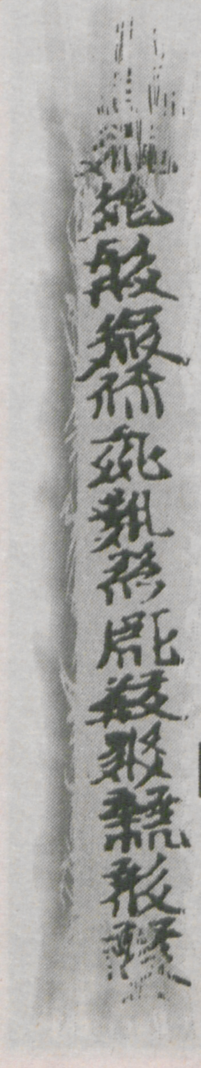

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SPRAMA.design Grand Opening Sept. 13

Harrisburg's SPRAMA.design hosts a grand opening Sept. 13 during Gallery Walk. The firm's three partners/designers Ashly Tagle, Harmony Boore, and Josephine Stoltzfus call the business "a design firm that caters to the needs of the everyday homeowner."

These three women have a lot in common. They all worked for a large corporation known for its interior design services. They all shared the same dream. They all hated working weekends.

They were always being propositioned by our clients at the large corporation to do work for them on the side. They loved what we were able to do for them, but many of them couldn't afford the products. Their firm had lamps for $500. Now the firm can do a room for that price.

The more the women talked, the more their goals coincided. Interior design is their passion, but if they started their own firm, it had to be design that was attainable to all income levels. They knew it had to be easy and approachable. Something anyone could use.

It was during this time, when the idea of their distinctive, three-phase program began to take shape. It is revolutionary and it will bring great design to the homes of people who didn't think they could afford it. Visit their website at www.sprama.com to learn more about their process.

The best time to introduce yourself to these three women is coming up. Sept. 11, they will host a ribbon cutting event that will include much ado about the gallery they are opening as an extension of their design work.

The firm is always looking for great art that means something to our clients. They consoder themselves artists ourselves so they appreciate the personal relationship that goes along with artwork. Opening a gallery seemed like the logical thing to do. The three partners have artists who want to sell their work as well as clients who want to buy art. Running the business out of the back of the gallery will give the women tremendous opportunity for private art shows, galas and diverse exhibits.

The mission of the SPRAMA.gallery is to entice those who normally wouldn't enter a gallery for the purposes of art appreciation and help them to see the significance of the work using the artist's statements. The stories of the work help the clients to see where the art comes from, and how impressive it all really is. Join them, also, for their Grand Opening Debut of the SPRAMA.gallery. Sept. 13 at Harrisburg's Gallery Walk.

Contact: SPRAMA.design, 308 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg, PA 17110, 717.238.1001, 717.350.4397, www.sprama.com

York events

From Horse to Horsepower Sept. 19

York County Heritage Trust invites the public to celebrate the evolution of transportation from horse to horsepower Sept. 19 by showcasing your vehicle at a unique new car show called York on Wheels.

The event takes place on the beautiful rolling hills of South Branch Farms 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. just minutes from the Leaders Heights Exit off of I-83 on Reynolds Mill Road. Whether your car is from the past or present, the public is encourage to showcase their vehicle.

Expanded from the former Concours d' Elegance, which successfully showcased classic vehicles to thousands of people over the last six years, York on Wheels hopes to continue this celebration by inviting all enthusiasts and their families to enjoy York's rich vehicle manufacturing history. Exciting entertainment will include: horse riding demonstrations, alpaca displays, and family-friendly activities to for all to enjoy.

Vehicles may be entered in 14 categories: Antique Cars – '49 and older, Antique Cars – '50 and newer, Antique Trucks, Antique Tractors, York-built Cars, Corvettes, Motorcycles, Muscle Cars, Street Rods – up to 1948, Production Cars from the 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s and newer, as well as Exotic or Other car categories. Awards will be given to the best vehicle in each category, chosen by People's Choice. You must be present to win awards.

All participants must complete one registration form and include a $10.00 nonrefundable entry fee (includes admission for one car and two guests) for each vehicle you plan to show. Pre-registration is encouraged; however, in order to receive a $5.00 lunch coupon, you must register by September 1.

Info: www.yorkheritage.org for more details and to download an entry form.

Lancaster events

Through Oct. 17
Sight & Sound Millennium Theatre®
Strasburg, PA

Through Dec. 31
Hershey's Chocolate World
Hershey, PA

Through Sept. 12
The Wedding Singer
Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre
Lancaster, PA

Through Oct. 12
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AACA Museum
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Through Nov. 7
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Well ducklings, since we last met up I've been caught in a whirlwind of celeb drenched parties!

Strolling between red carpets, I picked up a copy of last month's Central Voice and staring me in the face was Lady Gaga. And on the inside porn producer Michael Lucas had his shirt off. I wasn't that excited since Stallion's anniversary "Foam Night" Party which was one helluva good time!

And then as rainbow luck would have it I came across another one of those can't-make-it-up signs: Caution – Please Keep Hands Clear. Door Swings Both Ways. So you know I ran right in there and then right back out. I go both ways too! And I kept my hands clear at all times. Same as when I sleep with them above the covers. So far, I've snagged a photo of a Homo Pint (or was that a Pint Homo?) and now a bi door, just like Dior. Snap! Snap! A new fashion product – Bior, j'adore! A scent for both your better sides.

Have you heard that a local municipality declared a "fly" problem? It's true. I can attest to this. Curious as I am for both myself and on behalf of my faithful readers, I road raced right over to the afflicted hamlet. To see for myself. Confirmed. There is indeed a fly problem. The ones that should be "up" are down and the ones that should be "down" are "up". Guys never seem to get it right.

Club XS Launches New Drag Venue Aug. 14

York's Club XS launched a much anticipated new drag venue Aug. 14, 10:30 p.m

Already two-thirds sold out for the Aug. 14 premiere, the show is known as "The Society of Ladies Revue – Trannies, Tramps & Trollops," the all new show presents a brand new cast of characters. The show is produced by Man Behind the Curtain Productions and will be held at Club XS every second Friday of each month.

"The revue is the product of our recent audience-driven audition and competition called "Drag Race to Stardom held in May and June," says club manager Charles Oswald. The new cast is a compilation of people who auditioned. The top four selected received a one year contract to perform in the new show.

"The new show is something that south central Pennsylvania has been hungry to see - highly professional, extremely entertaining, and a barrel of laughs," Oswald says. Not only are some of the faces in the new cast also new to the area, "but we have searched high and low to find just the right host who can anchor the venue in a way that people will want to come back again and again!" Oswald says.

The cast consists of Diamond, Felicia Forester, Whitley Nicole Diare, Laquisha Rodriguez, and Miss Club XS - Poision.

The alternate to the show in case someone is unable to perform is Kalina Kirkpatrick. The wildly entertaining host goes by Sparkles Fiercly.

"Each cast member had to develop a brand new character, and he must continue to develop that character for the entire run of the year long show," Oswald says. Producers Greg King and Oswald are working hard to insure audiences are totally entertained. "That's our goal. Entertaining our audience and having a professional cast who can keep them coming back as they develop their characters," Oswald says.

Some familiar with the new cast have said "the venue is excellent drag, impersonation as it was meant to be. You'll laugh out loud."

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PA ESTATE TAX ... *A Gay Survivor's Nightmare*

By Leo L. Dunn, Attorney

Darien and Jay had been a couple for 25 years. Darien worked in an office as an administrative assistant. He made a modest income and receives a small pension since he retired at 62 last year. Jay was a moderately successful small businessman running a sole proprietorship. He was 55 years old when he died suddenly at work of a heart attack this year. Darien was charged $12,000 for Jay's funeral expenses.

Jay had a will leaving everything to Darien. Their house was owned solely in Jay's name since he had owned it before they met. Darien did not pay rent or help with the mortgage. They had purchased furniture together. The house was completely paid off. They each owned separate cars. Jay's car had a value of $12,000. They had a joint household checking account and separate savings accounts. The joint account at Jay's death held $2,000 and had no bills pending. Jay's savings account held $50,000. Jay's business account held $15,000. The business owed $5,000 in bills payable and owned no real estate. It terminated upon Jay's death. Jay did not have life insurance.

Darien met with an attorney to look at Jay's will. He assumed that Jay's will left him in a modest but comfortable manner. The attorney explained the probate process, the land transfer tax of 2% and PA's inheritance tax rates. Since Darien and Jay were not married and not related, the transfer of Jay's assets to Darien would be taxed at PA's collateral, or Class B, rate of 15%. The attorney advised Darien to have the house and furnishings appraised. The attorney estimated his costs to be $950.

The appraisal valued the house at $150,000 and the furnishings at $10,000.

PA's Inheritance Tax Return required all of Jay's assets to be totaled. The attorney started with the full value of the house, added the full value of Jay's car and savings account, then he added 50% of the value of the jointly owned checking and furnishing, and finally added the full value of the business account. The total value came to $233,000. From this he deducted the funeral expense, his legal fee, and the businesses bills payable. These totaled $17,950. He subtracted this amount from the total value to determine the net value of the estate subject to tax as $215,050. Multiplying this by 15%, the attorney determined the estate owed $32,258 to the State of PA.

Suddenly, Darien was facing several bills: $12,000 in funeral expenses, $950 in legal fees, $5,000 in business expenses owed, a property transfer tax of $3,000, and a tax bill of $32,258, totaling $53,208. The cash in Jay's estate totaled $66,000, leaving Darien with $12,792 and clear title to the house – and full responsibility for all household expenses. Not a true nightmare situation, but Jay could have protected Darien more by proper planning – if only by means of purchasing an insurance policy on his own life with Darien as beneficiary. A modest insurance policy could have covered all of the expenses Darien faced and even provided a bit extra.

Unlike the PA spousal tax rate of 0%, gay, lesbian and other non-married couples must pay the Class B rate of 15%. Remember, PA does not recognize other state's same-sex marriages or common law marriages (with minor exceptions). Couples should sit down with their financial advisor and an attorney to plan on how they can title property, divide assets and debts, whether to keep a mortgage in place until after death of one party, and how much and what types of insurance to maintain. At this time, couples can also plan for growing older and how they want to face each challenge of aging. Even couples of very modest means should have wills, power of attorneys, health care directives, and small insurance policies in place. Don't be caught off guard like my fictional character Darien, protect your loved ones by planning.

Leo Dunn is an attorney and counselor-at-law practicing in Harrisburg with a focus on the estate planning needs of the GLBT community. He may be reached at leo@leodunnlaw.com

Harrisburg Gallery Walk Turns 21 on September 13

Founded in 1988 by The Art Association of Harrisburg as a joint marketing event intended to prove to art lovers that Harrisburg is filled with galleries and great artists, Gallery Walk has grown increasingly popular over the intervening years.

Galleries have actually come into existence in order to participate in the self-guided tour. The 2009 event is set for Sunday, Sept. 13, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and it's free. The brochure with gallery locations and exhibitions will be posted on the AAH website at www.artassocofhbg.com. 2009 corporate sponsors are the new Harrisburg Midtown Arts Centre and the Patriot News. WXPN is the Media Sponsor for the second year in a row.

Galleries include: The Art Association of Harrisburg, The State Museum of Pennsylvania, Strawberry Square, Susquehanna Art Museum, Whitaker Centre for Science and the Arts, The Gallery at Walnut Place, Reservoir Mansion, Radius at the State Museum, The Governor's Residence,La Femme Jolie, Mangia Qui, The Yellow Wall Hall Gallery at Midtown Scholar, Penn National Insurance, Mitrani at Home, VQC Designs, Arts at 510, St. Stephen's Episcopal Cathedral, Harrisburg Downtown Improvement District Visitors Centre, and Pine St. Presbyterian Church. Additionally participating are: Route 15 Byway of the Arts at Salem United Church of Christ, The ArtHouse Lounge, The Harrisburg Camera Club at City Government Centre, Harrisburg Midtown Art Centre, Gallery Blu, Progressive Galleries, McKissick and Associates, and SPRAMA. Design and Art Gallery.

Many of the venues will be presenting live music to complement the art, and most will offer light refreshments.

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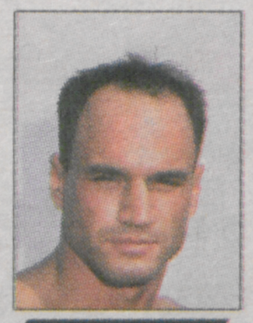

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Pride Honors Mr. and Miss Pride 2009

For 2009, Pride Festival of Central PA named Chynna Buffet Miss Central PA Gay Pride and Onyx Mr. Central PA Gay Pride. They are 2009-2010 winners of the Central PA Pride Festival Pageants.

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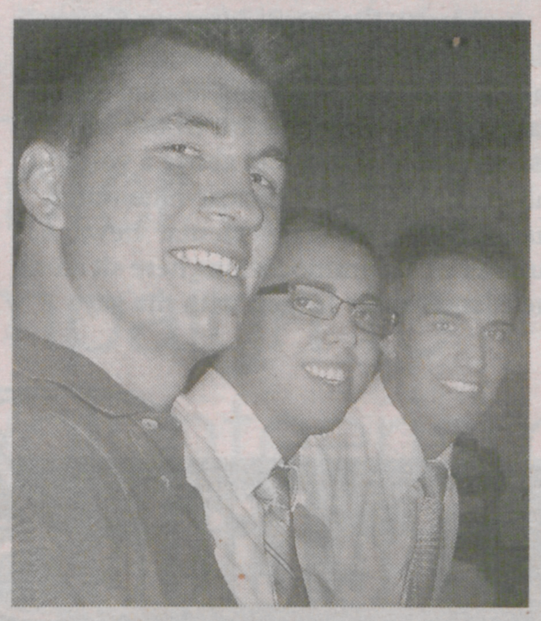
Pride Kicks Off with Dinner and Concert

The evening began with a Dinner/Reception at the Harrisburg Hilton for Stonewall Rebellion Veterans visiting from NYC and participating in the Parade. The group, some of whom participated in the event that began the modern gay civil rights movement and Pride, will present a program Sunday, July 26 in the history of Stonewall. See Calendar for details.

The evening continued with "Voices United – A Choral Celebration of Pride" at Market Square Presbyterian Church was presented by the Central PA Womyn's Chorus, Choir of MCC of the Spirit, Harrisburg Men's Chorus, and Unisingers of the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg.



Pride Fest 2009 Wrap Up

To the sound of whistles and revving motorcycle engines, the fourth annual Pride Fest Unity Parade was started on its way down Second Street in Harrisburg on Saturday July 25, 2009. This year's parade was the largest to date with 50 entries including four marching bands. The parade received Internet attention as members of the gay and lesbian band association from across the country where asking what was happening in Harrisburg, PA that three gay and lesbian band association bands where converging on the city.

The parade also included many elaborately decorated floats and walking units. Mark Smith, Parade Chair announced the winners of the parade competition from the North Stage at the Pride Festival. This year's parade winner's were as follows: Best Float: Brownstone, Best Decorated Vehicle: Club XS, Best Walking Unit: Vision of Hope MCC, Community Choice Award: St Paul's United Church of Christ & PFLAG, Parade Committee Award: MCC of the Spirit, Grand Marshal Award: Brownstone, First Place Band Award: Lesbian & Gay Big Apple Corp, Second Place Band Award: Bushwackers. Judges for this year's parade were Bolton Winpenny, former editor of Panzee Press, Judy Chambers, editor of Lavendar Letter, Rev. Larry Hawkins of St. Michael's Lutheran Church. Music judges were Dave Minnich and Leonard Smith.

Spirits United, a Pride Interfaith service was held at the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg at 16th and Market Street on Sunday, July 26. The theme "Your Rites, Our Rites, Human Rites: Hope, Equality, Love and Peace" was devised from the Pride 2009 theme. The service offers the LBGT community and its allies an opportunity to celebrate unity through worship.

Rev. Howard Dana, pastor of Unitarian Church, opened the service, welcoming those present to the first service held in the newly purchased building. This was followed by a Unitarian tradition of lighting of the Chalice lead by Alanna Berger, executive director of Silent Witnesses. Clergy taking part in the service represented the Episcopal, Lutheran, Jewish and Buddhist traditions. The Rev. Dr Terry Karanen offered the thought provoking reflection, "The H.E.L.P We Seek is Within Us", using the acronym for the four human rights of hope, equality, love and peace. The Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus, MCC of the Spirit One Voice Choir and Judy Leslie, soprano soloist, offered musical selections. A Sufi chant ended the service, bidding a safe journey home to the seventy-five people in attendance. Marlene Kanuck, coordinated the service.

The 2009 Pride Festival held in Riverfront Park was also well attended with early estimates of crowd size exceeding the 5,000 people that attended the 2008 festival. The number of vendors also increased this year for a total of 103. The two stages of entertainment, featuring Tiffany and Janice Robinson, were certainly crowd pleasers and the young and young at heart enjoyed our expanded family zone.

There are many individuals, organizations, and businesses that help make the Pride Festival the best event that it can be. From sponsors to donors, from volunteers to patrons, everyone in the community plays a role in the success of the Pride Festival of Central PA. Please make sure you thank those organizations, businesses, sponsors, donors, and volunteers who have made the whole weekend possible. Sponsors included

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And lastly, the Pride Festival of Central PA wants to thank all of you in the community who have continued to support Pride by attending our fundraising events throughout the whole year. Here's to "Your Rights, Our Rights, Human Rights" and looking forward to another great Pride Season in 2010.

The Pride Festival of Central PA wants to hear from you. Your feedback is greatly appreciated so we know how to better serve the community and provide you with quality events going forward. Your response will also provide us with the necessary information needed to obtain corporate sponsorships in the future. Please visit our website at http://www.harrisburg-pride.org/contact/index.htm and complete the two surveys at the bottom of the page. Please do not include your name on these surveys. Thank you.

Submitted by The Pride Festival of Central PA

Gay-Friendly Hideaways with Big Views

OUT OF TOWN
by Andrew Collins

There's a reason that hotels charge twice as much - or sometimes even three times more - for a room facing the crashing surf or a soaring mountain peak than, say, a unit overlooking a parking lot or airshaft. Venturing away to some cushy retreat surrounded by visually arresting scenery practically guarantees romance (provided you bring a hot date). Overnight accommodations with stunning views come in many varieties, from antiques-filled B&B rooms overlooking sweeping desert mesas to sleek, skyscraper hotel suites offering magnificent panoramas of city skylines or monumental suspension bridges.

Here are eight gay-friendly hotels and inns around the world whose views promise to dazzle and delight you

Adobe & Stars, Taos, New Mexico

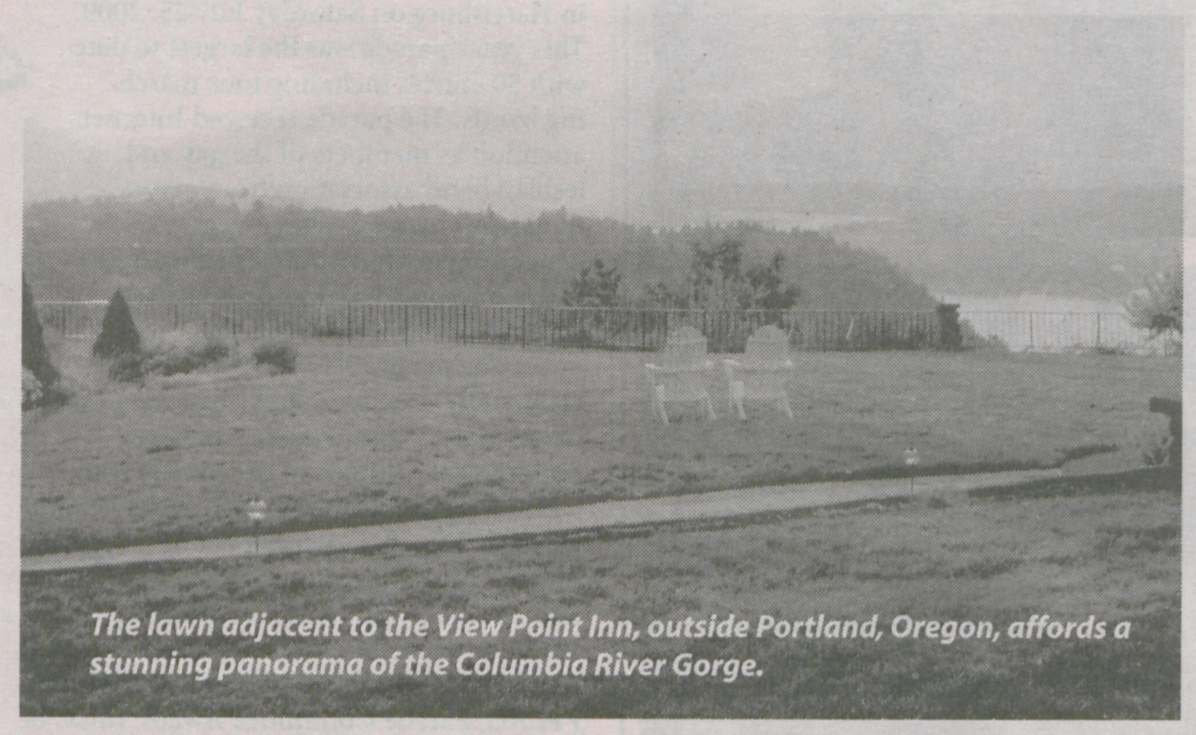
In Arroyo Seco - a small and richly scenic village north of Taos - the luxurious, light-filled Adobe and Stars B&B offers stunning 360-degree vistas of the surrounding countryside. To the east, you can see the 13,161-foot Wheeler Peak, the highest point in New Mexico, which is often capped in snow. Look west, and the high-desert mesa rolls for miles and miles - as far as the eye can see. This contemporary inn is surrounded by decks and patios and filled with big windows, high ceilings, and elegant furniture. Some of the seven guest rooms have fireplaces and Jacuzzis.

Casa Cupula, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

Puerto Vallarta is home to one of the most alluring, dramatically situated gay resorts you'll find anywhere - the stellar Casa Cupula, which excels as much for its stately accommodations as for its incomparable views. The elegant compound consists of 14 rooms and five suites, some with patios that afford unparalleled views of the city and Banderas Bay. Facilities include a well-stocked gym, four pools, and a large open-air lounge with adjacent computer room. The property tumbles down a hillside high above Zona Romantica, a 10- to 15-minute walk from the gay beach and the many bars and restaurants. But once you've spent a little time relaxing here, away from the crowds and in full view of Puerto Vallarta's stunning shoreline, you may find it hard to leave this romantic property.

Grand Hyatt Hotel, Hong Kong

On the east edge of Central Hong Kong, in the Wan Chai district, the Grand Hyatt is distinct for its magnificent setting on the edge of the harbor. There are few tall buildings around it, which means that rooms enjoy knockout views of the water, the bustling Kowloon District, and the city center. This is a star in the gay-popular Hyatt brand, with some of the most lavishly decorated rooms imaginable. Don't miss the 11th-floor outdoor pool, which is the city's largest - it adjoins the beautiful Plateau Spa, which is an exceptional choice if you're seeking a spa treatment while in town.



The lawn adjacent to the View Point Inn, outside Portland, Oregon, affords a stunning panorama of the Columbia River Gorge.

Mandarin Oriental, San Francisco, California

Sure, plenty of soaring skyscrapers around the world house luxury hotels, but downtown San Francisco's Mandarin Oriental truly stands out. Every room here is on a high floor, as the hotel occupies the 38th through the 48th floors of the city's third-tallest building. And the views take in the Bay Area's gorgeous topography. Depending which direction you face, you might gaze out at the Golden Gate Bridge, the Marin Headlands, San Francisco Bay, Alcatraz Island, the hills above Berkeley and Oakland, or some of downtown's other dramatic towers. In every direction there's both natural and man-made beauty. Decorated artfully with Asian silks fabrics, bamboo flooring, and tasteful antiquities, the rooms here are spacious and airy. Some units even afford knockout views from their bathtubs.

Mount Lofty House, Adelaide Hills, Australia

A highlight of touring the Adelaide Hills is a stop at Mt. Lofty Summit park, from which you'll enjoy unsurpassed views of the city of Adelaide and the surrounding region. Nearby is one of area's best lodging options, Mount Lofty House, a beautiful country lodge that offers similarly magnificent views. The hotel's Piccadilly Restaurant & Wine Bar has earned considerable kudos for its well-chosen wine list and tasty food. It's a great place to enjoy a memorable meal, high above the stunning South Australia countryside.

Nelson's Guesthouse, Cape Town, South Africa

Close to Cape Town's most exclusive beach communities, Clifton and Camps Bay, this posh, gay-owned guest house sits along the gentle slopes of Signal Hill. From this modern, Mediterranean-inspired, six-room property, you're afforded fantastic views of the ocean and historic Robben Island in the distance. Look up in the other direction, and you can see the bald, grassy summit of Signal Hill and adjacent Lion's Head. Each of the nattily decorated rooms has its own private courtyard, a perfect spot to soak up this romantic inn's lovely ambience.

On The Rocks, Santorini, Greece

Among the many gorgeous Greek islands that dot the Aegean Sea, Mykonos has the strongest following among gay travelers. But it's Santorini, whose cliffs rise several hundred feet above a volcanic caldera now filled with clear-blue water, that offers the most spectacular views. A number of accommodations here sit along the island's sheer ledges, with the gay-friendly On The Rocks among the most luxurious, with each of its 20 rooms (with verandas) overlooking the sea. Decor is minimalist and clean - the same white and blue color scheme that dominates the island's architecture. Also with fantastic views are a decent-size pool and adjoining bar, from which you can sip refreshing Greek wine while watching the sun descend each evening.

View Point Inn, Corbett, Oregon

A popular spot for romantic brunches, lunches, and dinners, this elegantly restored Arts and Crafts restaurant and inn is perched high on a promontory, some 1,100 feet above the Columbia River, with mesmerizing views of the Pacific Northwest's iconic Columbia Gorge. Relax with a glass of local pinot noir in an Adirondack chair on the View Point's sweeping back lawn, and you'd never know you're just 20 miles or so from the bustling city of Portland.

What some visitors don't realize is that this gay-owned property has a handful of eclectic overnight accommodations, ranging from an ultra-plush and spacious suite with a private bath and sweeping gorge views, to a few inexpensively priced, cozier rooms that have shared bathrooms. The fancier of the bunch, the Roosevelt Suite, is ideal if you're planning an over-the-top romantic getaway, while the other rooms work nicely for budget-minded travelers who still want to stay somewhere with amazing views and great food in the restaurant, or for groups of friends traveling together.

Andrew Collins is the author of Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA and eight additional travel guides. He can be reached care of this publication or at OutofTown@qsyndicate.com.

The Little Black Book

- Adobe & Stars, Taos, New Mexico (505-776-2776, www.taosadobe.com).
- Casa Cupula, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico (Casa Cupula (322-223-2484 or 866-261-3516, www.casacupula.com).
- Grand Hyatt Hotel, Hong Kong (2588-1234, www.hongkong.hyatt.com).
- Mandarin Oriental, San Francisco, California (415-276-9888, www.mandarinoriental.com/sanfrancisco).
- Mount Lofty House, Adelaide Hills, Australia (08-8339-6777, www.mtloftyhouse.com.au).
- On The Rocks, Santorini, Greece (30-22860-23889, www.onrocks.net).
- Nelson's Guesthouse, Cape Town, South Africa (27-21-433-2602, www.nelsons.co.za).
- View Point Inn, Corbett, Oregon (503-695-5811, www.theviewpointinn.com).

Lebanon Valley College Hosts Tibetan Monks

Lebanon Valley College hosts the Monks of Drepung Gomang Monastery Nov.1 – 6 as they create a sand mandala painting in the Lynch Hall Atrium. To construct the mandala, monks carefully place dyed sand particles on a board. The event is open to the public daily 10 a.m to 4 p.m.

Monks creating a sand mandala painting.

The opening ceremony for the mandala construction will take place at 5 p.m. on November 1. The monks will chant powerful prayers for peace, prosperity, and healing in traditional overtones - the chant master intoning a full chord of three notes. This chanting will be accompanied by delicate hand gestures, cymbals, drums, horns, and flutes.

Immediately following the opening ceremony is a banquet in the West Dining Hall of the Mund College Center. The banquet features Tibetan food, an explanation of the opening ceremonies by a Tibetan geshe, and a brief video regarding the history of Buddhism in Tibet.

The closing ceremony takes place 4 p.m., Nov. 6 in the Atrium of Lynch Memorial Hall. At that time, the mandala will be deconstructed and the sands will be dispersed in Quittapahilla Creek, symbolizing the impermanence of all phenomena.

In addition to the creation of a sand mandala, the monks perform a Tibetan Puja (worship service) 6 p.m., Nov.2. They will teach the traditional Tibetan art of Mani Stone Painting 6 p.m., Nov. 3 and share a cultural presentation 5 p.m., Nov. 5 that includes a tradition yak dance and debate.

Sunday's banquet immediately following the opening ceremonies will be served from buffet tables set with Himalayan cuisine including momos (Tibetan dumplings). Tibetan desserts will be served at each table. As guests enjoy their food, the geshe of the Gomang monastery will explain the elements of the opening ceremony and present a 15-minute video presentation about the history of Buddhism in Tibet.

The College regularly offers banquets focusing on diverse religious experience twice a year, once each academic semester. Recent banquets featured the food, music and traditions of Sukkoth, Baisakhi, Mawlid al Nabi, Rama Navami, and the Coptic Feast of the Cross.

"We appreciate the religious expression of another culture in a special way when we learn about it in the context of its music, performance and good food," said Rev. Paul Fullmer, Chaplain at the College and co-sponsor of the event.

Banquet tickets are $12 general admission, $5 for non-LVC students, and $30 for a family with children. Space limited. Reservations call 717-867-6135 before 8 a.m. on Sept. 25. All other events are free and open to the public.

Whitaker Center Joins National Campaign to Encourage Volunteerism

Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts has joined President Barack Obama's new initiative to encourage service in America through, "United We Serve." The national campaign was designed to motivate Americans to make volunteerism and community service a part of their daily lives.

From now through September 2009, Whitaker Center will be one of many nonprofit organizations across the country, posting volunteer opportunities on VolunteerMatch.org. This information will be available to millions of Americans looking to make a difference and volunteer, as well as an entire network of partners. Potential volunteers can browse national opportunities focusing on education, health, and community renewal.

"Volunteering in the community is incredibly important," said Michelle Hornberger, Whitaker Center Volunteer and Intern Coordinator. "It's great to see a national initiative that encourages citizens from all over the United States, to give back to the communities they live in through volunteerism."

Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts is located in downtown Harrisburg at 222 Market Street. For information and tickets please visit, whitakercenter.org or call 717/214-ARTS.

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Mangia Qui & Suba celebrate old-world methods of cooking that are reflective and respectful of the culture and region of which the food hails. They embrace fair trade, environmental, and economic sustainability. We do this, with you in mind, as well as the health of our planet. Mangia Qui offers an ever-changing menu based on seasonal items and the whimsy of Qui Qui.

She also offers a wine list highlighting ancient varietals, reserve bottlings and food-friendly selections. The bar hosts and impressive lineup of spirits, grappas, sherries, and specialty cocktails.

At Suba, readers will find Brasilian inspired rhythms and open percussion jams Fri., Sept. 4 with "Smoke the Groove," a pop fusion band. Sat., Sept. 5 listen to rock-oriented "The Sketties". Now offering free WiFi. All shows start at 9 pm unless otherwise indicated - with no cover. http://www.mangiaqui.com

Patty Larkin, Catie Curtis and Bobbi Carmitchell at Carlisle Theatre

By Frank Pizzoli

The comradery of the creative will show itself in Carlisle Theatre Nov. 21, 7:30 p.m. at Carlisle Theatre.

Likely to go down in local musical folklore, that night Lancaster singer songwriter Bobbi Carmitchell joins folk sensations Patty Larkin and Catie Curtis. Tickets are $33, $28, $23.

Bobbi Carmitchell

Before the night is over, will they have played together on stage? "I hope it so," Larkin tells Central Voice. Curtis and Carmitchell both hope so too. That won't be a stretch for them since Larkin and Curtis know each other from their Boston-based roots. Carmitchell and Curtis are friends. Among all three of them, they probably play as many instruments as a symphony.

On her latest CD, Larkin plats a dozen different instruments. "We go into a studio for a couple of weeks and we record it all. Then we mix. It's wild," she explains. Wild has always been a part of her career, like the time Sidney Pollack was riding around LA listening to NPR when he heard one of her songs. He drove to a Border's and bought the disk, listened, and then placed her song in the movie "Sliding Doors." "It's fluky and fun," Larkin laughs. Her music is now part of five films. Cher liked Larkin's "Angel's Running, Good Thing" and redid the song as "Good Things."

"I keep the 'critic' to the side when writing music. I often work for an hour or more and then go back and listen to what I've done," Larkin says of her creative process.

Carmitchell's musical creativity has led her across the country. "I've performed in all but three states," she says. Carmitchell does about 50 to 60 appearances a year. Radio stations in Boston, Hartford, Conn., and Madison, WI are among the growing number of outlets playing her songs.

"Catie and I have known each other since the 90s," Carmitchell explains, from when they met at a women's music festival. "We just stayed friends." She's forecasting that each of them will – Curtis, Larkin, and herself – will play solo sets but hopes (and doesn't know for sure) that they'll also join into each others acts as well. Working together is a well worn path for Carmitchell who first rose to prominence in the early 80s as part of the popular trio "Wind and Wood," performing with her sister, Anne, as The Carmitchell Sisters, or as a solo artist.

Critics note Carmitchell's strong rapport with her audiences. "I once spent three months on the road and in the process saw a tremendous variety in audiences. I love cultivating my stage presence and over the years it's been a fun process for me."

The audience in Carlisle the night of Nov. 21 is sure to feel Carmitchell's stage presence.

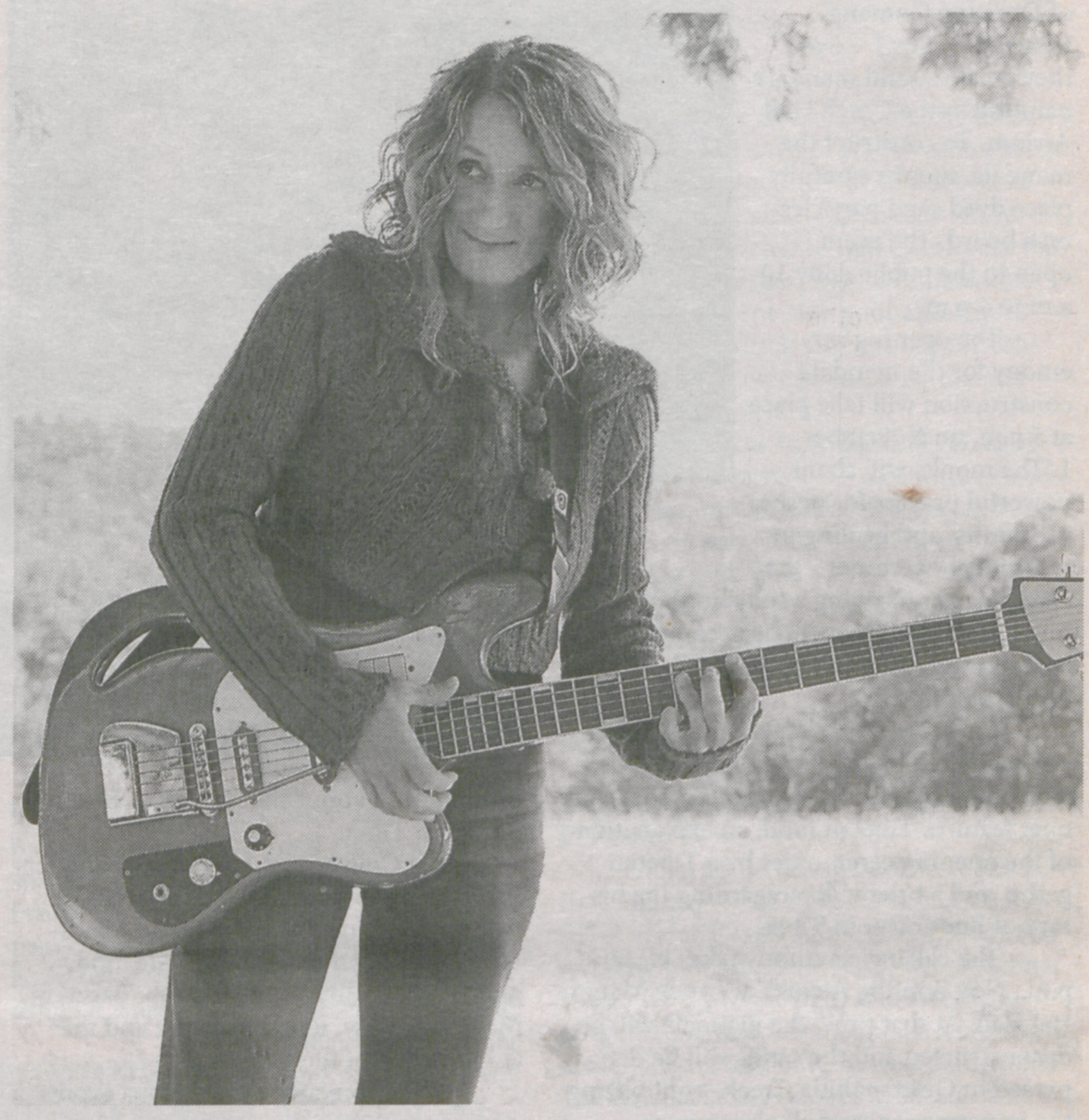
"I remember Bobbi from when we were making cassettes of our music," Curtis says. Ten albums later, she talks about "Hello Stranger" in which Curtis finally records with instruments she plays on stage but not in the recording studio.

"I play the mandolin, fiddle, banjo, acoustic guitar on stage but I've never used those instruments on a recording," Curtis explains. Her latest album will give fans a chance to hear at home the music they enjoy from her live shows. "Hello" offers five of her own songs and six cover songs.

Many people who follow Curtis are politically involved "but my role is to offer solace, a massage for the soul" she says. As a mother and aware of the daily news, Curtis is keenly aware but wants her concerts to offer a soothing place to relax. "I want to entertain and renew my audience."

Catie Curtis

Photo by Tony Baker



Patty Larkin

Photos by Jana Leon

Whitaker Center Turns 10 Sept. 9

On September 9, Whitaker Center celebrates its 10th year as Central Pennsylvania's premier arts and science center. More than an architectural icon, Whitaker Center has become an integral part of the community, a destination where visitors can learn about science and experience the performing arts, and enjoy IMAX films in a family-friendly environment.

Anniversary events and promotions include:

10th Year Birthday Bash
Wednesday, September 9

Join us for the birthday party of the decade with fabulous food, entertainment, prizes and a look back at Whitaker Center's top exhibits and performances. Tickets are $75 each.

An Afternoon with Garrison Keillor
Sunday, September 20

The best-selling author and host of A Prairie Home Companion kicks off the 2009-2010 Whitaker Center Presents at the FORUM Series.

Since its inception in 1994, Whitaker Center has become what it is today with the leadership of 200 dedicated volunteers. For the past 14-plus years, Madge Appleby continues to dedicate her time and talent to the Center. "It's a fun place to volunteer," said Appleby. "I enjoy meeting new people and working with other enthusiastic volunteers. The staff is very grateful for our help and that makes you feel appreciated."

As a venue for national limited-engagement exhibitions, featuring Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition (2005); large-format favorites and Hollywood blockbuster films, including The Dark Knight: The IMAX Experience (2008); and Grammy® Award-winning artists, such as Rufus Wainwright (2009), Whitaker Center continues to entertain and educate guests of all ages.

"I am honored to have this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the grand opening of Whitaker Center," said Dr. Michael Hanes, Whitaker Center President and CEO. "With nearly 4,000,000 visitors over the last ten years, it is impossible to calculate the true impact of the scientific, artistic, cultural and educational activities of Whitaker Center. We are grateful to a relatively small number of community leaders who were instrumental in developing and sustaining Whitaker Center during this important time in its history. Over the last ten years, thousands have joined them and we celebrate their commitment, dedication and generosity when we celebrate this milestone for Whitaker Center."

For more information, please visit whitakercenter.org.

book review

Dauphin County Library System

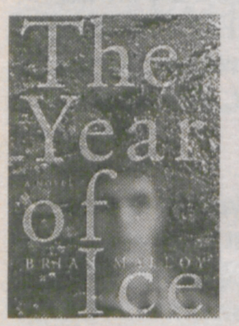
By Lewis Maurer

Find your new favorite book at the library this fall. Find out which titles are LGBT Community Center Coalition selections.

Bittersweet
Nevada Barr

Award-winning author Nevada Barr reveals another side to her remarkable storytelling prowess with this heart-wrenching yet tender tale of two women whose boundless devotion to each other is continually challenged in nineteenth century America. "Barr has drawn on women's diaries from the Old West to bring detail to this unusual romance. The result is an intriguing story, sensitive and authentic-sounding, and far different from what is usually considered a Western novel." -- The Miami Herald

The Year of Ice
Brian Malloy

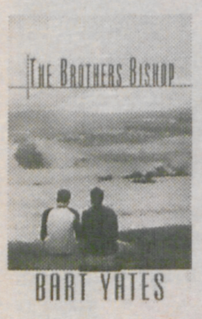


It is 1978 in the Twin Cities, and Kevin Doyle, a high school senior, is a marginal student in love with keggers, rock and roll, and-unbeknownst to anyone else-a boy in his class with thick eyelashes and a bad attitude. His mother Eileen died two years earlier when her car plunged into the icy waters of the Mississippi River, and since then Kevin's relationship with his father Patrick has become increasingly distant. As lonely women vie for his father's attention, Kevin discovers Patrick's own closely guarded secret. Kevin is forced to reevaluate his notions of family and love as painful truths emerge about both.

A Seahorse Year
Stacey D'Erasmo

This title is a LGBT Community Center Coalition selection.

D'Erasmo's second novel--the follow-up to her acclaimed "Tea"--tells a story about love at the very edge, about the things people do out of love, the unexpected risks of intimacy, and how families shatter and re-form under duress. This quiet, penetrating second novel follows a San Francisco family coping with a 16-year-old son's mental illness. Christopher's mom, Nan, is in a long-term relationship with girlfriend Marina, who's like another mom; his sperm donor dad, Hal, is gay, a dancer-turned-CPA. As D'Erasmo shifts between different points of view—distinct, but united by her lush prose—she paints a portrait of illness, but also of growth and change.



The Brothers Bishop
Bart Yates

Tommy and Nathan Bishop are as different as two brothers can be. Carefree and careless, Tommy is the golden boy who takes men into his bed with a seductive smile and turns them out just as quickly. Nathan is all about control. At thirty-one, he is as dark and complicated as Tommy is light and easy, and he is bitter beyond his years. While Tommy left for the excitement of New York City, Nathan has stayed behind, teaching high school English in their provincial hometown. During a heady two-week party filled with drunken revelations, bitter jealousies, caustic jabs, and tender reconciliations, Tommy and Nathan will confront the legacy of their twisted family history - the angry, abusive father and the tragic death of their mother - and finally, to the one secret that has shaped their entire lives.

Light Fell
Evan Fallenberg

This title is a LGBT Community Center Coalition selection.

2009 Stonewall Book Award Winner

When literature professor Joseph Licht invites his five adult sons to celebrate his 50th birthday in 1996 Tel Aviv, he hopes to win his boys' love and forgiveness by plying them with their favorite foods. Joseph's life unfolds in retrospect: 20 years earlier, as a married father of five, Joseph discovers he is gay as he falls in love with a charismatic, and married, rabbi. Fallenberg's descriptions of Israeli life, from the rural and academic arenas to the gay milieu, are credible and absorbing. The book adroitly sketches the heartfelt struggles of a sympathetic cast. From "Library Journal."

Assisted Loving, True Tales of Double Dating with My Dad
Bob Morris
2009 Stonewall Book Award Winner

Morris, a writer for the New York Times, mixes humor and social commentary in this courageous book, revealing the bitter grief of his mother's death and the joyous re-emergence into life of Joe, his widowed father. Morris, a lonely gay journalist, acts as senior adviser and moral chaperone to his dad's girlfriends. Never losing sight of the complex relationship between aging parents and adult children, the commitment-phobic son conquers some key intimacy issues to wade into a love affair with a man, while learning tolerance and openness from his father's juggling of female companions. Ultimately, the inspirational memoir captures all the needed laughs and emotions that go with love and life in the waning years of parent-child bonding. From "Publishers Weekly."

Fulton Theatre Announces LaVon Fisher-Wilson in Hello, Dolly!

The Historic Fulton Theatre in Downtown Lancaster recently announced casting for it's upcoming production of Hello, Dolly! The multi-racial production will be led by LaVon Fisher-Wilson (B'way: Color purple, Chicago) in the title role.

LaVon Fisher-Wilson

Joining LaVon will be Eugene Barry-Hill (B'way: Lion King) as Vandelgelder; Jeffrey Coon (Philadelphia-area favorite, Barrymore Award winner and 2009 Barrymore nominee—Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Musical—for The Producers at Walnut Street Theatre) as Cornelius; Daniella Dalli (Fulton: Les Misérables) as Irene; Alessia Thompson as Minnie; Mitch McCarrell as Barnaby; Robert Hartwell (upcoming Dreamgirls national tour) as Ambrose; Brittany Lewis (upcoming Dreamgirls national tour) as Emengarde; Patrice Covington (national tour: Ain't Misbehavin, upcoming Dreamgirls national tour) as Mrs Rose/Ernestina.

The ensemble includes: Joey Abramowicz, Amanda Abrom, Emily Abrom, Brittany Leffler, Jenny Piersol, Will Porter, Lisa Rumbauskas, Cody D. Smith, David Strobbe, Alison Solomon, Nic Thompson, Stephen Williams, Hal A. Yudoff.

The production will be directed and choreographed by the Fulton's new artistic director Marc Robin (2009 Barrymore Award nominee for Outstanding Direction of a Musical and Outstanding Choreography/Movement—for The Producers at Walnut Street Theatre—and 16-time Joseph Jefferson Award Winner). The Musical Director will be Ron Barnett, and the design team will include Robert Klingelhoefer (sets), Beth Dunkelberger (costumes), Bill Simmons (lights), Anthony Lascoskie, Jr. (wigs & makeup), David C. Temby (sound).

The production runs September 3 through 27, 2009 with a discounted ticket price preview performance on September 2. For tickets call (717) 397-7425 or visit www.thefulton.org.

2009-2010 Cabaret Series

Now in its third season, the Fulton Cabaret has grown in scope and popularity. Over the next several months, the Fulton's 4th Floor Studio Theatre is getting a facelift and a new stage to welcome some of the brightest up-and-coming stars from Broadway, Off-Broadway, and central Pennsylvania.

The series includes:

October 16, 2009 – Christina Bianco from the Off-Broadway Hit Forbidden Broadway.
November 20, 2009 – Christine Pedi from Broadway's Little Me and host of Broadway Breakfast on Sirius/XM radio.
January 15, 2010 – CASHINO (with Hairspray's Susan Mosher and recording artist John Boswell), the indescribable underground cult hit.
February 19, 2010 – John Treacy Egan from the Broadway productions of Disney's The Little Mermaid, The Producers, Jekyll & Hyde and the upcoming Broadway revival of Bye, Bye Birdie.
March 19, 2010 – Kristy Cates from the original Broadway cast of Wicked.
April 16, 2010 – Daniella Dalli who played Eponine in the Fulton's production of Les Misérables last season.
May 21, 2010 – Brandon Cutrell, a perennial favorite at the Fulton Cabaret and Co-Host of The After Party at Broadway's Laurie Beechman Theatre.

Fulton Cabaret performances coincide with Lancaster's Music Fridays, which highlight live music performances city-wide each 3rd Friday evening. For all of these performances, doors open at 8PM and the show starts at 9PM. Tickets are $20 each and a cash bar is available.

The 2009-2010 Fulton Cabaret Series is Co-Sponsored by Kesh Pappas and Rodgers & Associates. For tickets call (717) 397-7425 or visit www.thefulton.org.

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Alva Fights DADT cont'd

a 16 year policy enforced by the Department of Defense. The bill also authorizes reappointment of otherwise qualified individuals previously discharged on the basis of their sexual orientation. Alva spoke to the congressional oversight committee with same direct commanding presence he directed the 11 soldiers under his supervision when he was injured.

As a buildup to the war in January 2003, Alva's unit, the 3rd Battalion 7th Marines, deployed to the Middle East. His unit was among the first to cross the border of Kuwait into Iraq for the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom March 21, 2003. Three hours into the ground war, his unit stopped to rest near the city of Basra. While stepping out of his vehicle, Alva triggered a landmine. The violent explosion threw him 15 feet from the vehicle, and left him with a broken left leg, a broken right arm that was torn open and had severe nerve damage, and a badly injured right leg that was later amputated. He became the first American wounded in the war and the war's first Purple Heart recipient.

After 13 years of military service, Alva retired as a staff sergeant and went back to college to finish his degree. While at school, he decided to be true to himself and help others, and came out as gay. He is the Human Rights Campaign's national spokesperson fighting to repeal the military's discriminatory policy. He lives in San Antonio with his partner Darrell and their two dogs, Champ and Bo.

In 2007, Alva joined Rep. Martin Meehan, D-Mass., in introducing the Military Readiness Enhancement Act, a bill designed to repeal the military's "Don't Ask Don't Tell" policy. With this step, he openly admitted to the military and the world that he is a gay man, and one who had served and proudly sacrificed for his country. Alva took a courageous step toward fighting for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans and, in particular, for those who have served and are serving in the military but who are unable to be true to themselves.

More recently, Alva joined forces with Congressman Patrick Murphy (PA-8) when he became the official lead sponsor for the act. "My goal is to help achieve civil rights for all citizens of the United States," Alva says.

"The unbelievable stress of being gay in the military, especially in combat conditions, cannot be underestimated," Alva says. While he served some of his closest friends knew of his sexual orientation. "The policy is an undue pressure. Soldiers take an oath to uphold the law. DADT is the law. It creates conflicts and it creates oppression that is unnecessary."

"Why are gay people expected to keep their personal lives private? We do not make that request of, we do not 'legislate' that aspect of anyone else's personal life," Alva points out. The policy legally requires that gay individuals keep their private life to themselves because some one else might be offended.

Alva cites the mounting piles of evidence indicating that a soldier's sexual preference in and of itself does not, as opponents claim, destroy unit cohesion. He also mentions the policy's cruel realities. "Can you imagine you're beloved is going off to war and you may never see him or her again. And you cannot go to the base to say goodbye for fear someone will suspect he or she is gay?"

Gay Iraq Veteran @ thecentralvoice.ning.com on Military Readiness Enforcement Act

Pride Central PA cont'd

bidding a safe journey home to the seventy-five people in attendance. Marlene Kanuck, coordinated the service.

The 2009 Pride Festival held in Riverfront Park was also well attended with early estimates of crowd size exceeding the 5,000 people that attended the 2008 festival. The number of vendors also increased this year for a total of 103. The two stages of entertainment, featuring Tiffany and Janice Robinson, were certainly crowd pleasers and the young and young at heart enjoyed our expanded family zone.

There are many individuals, organizations, and businesses that help make the Pride Festival the best event that it can be. From sponsors to donors, from volunteers to patrons, everyone in the community plays a role in the success of the Pride Festival of Central PA. Please make sure you thank those organizations, businesses, sponsors, donors, and volunteers who have made the whole weekend possible. Sponsors included

Red Level Sponsors – The Harrisburg Gayborhood Bars (Neptune Lounge, Brownstone Lounge, 704 Strawberry Cafe, Stallions & Twin Peaks), Glenda's Cabaret Pride Tour

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And lastly, the Pride Festival of Central PA wants to thank all of you in the community who have continued to support Pride by attending our fundraising events throughout the whole year.

The Pride Festival of Central PA wants to hear from you. Please visit our website at http://www.harrisburgpride.org/contact/index.htm and complete the two surveys at the bottom of the page.

FAB Returns

The popular event FAB returns Nov. 14 in the newly opened Lancaster County Convention Center & Marriott Penn Square.

Formally named the Fall Achievement Benefit, the returning event is co-chaired this year by Patti Bucek and Don Blyler III. The evening is a celebration of the region's lgbt community and is a key source of funding for the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) Community Center Coalition of Central PA.

Headline speaker is former gay Marine Eric Alva, the first soldier wounded in the Iraq War and active right now in the congressional DADT debate. Alva will speak mainly about the strong roles played by lgbt people in society. "Alva's remarks are meant to empower those in the audience and let everyone know that they can make a very positive difference," says coalition president Ted Martin.

"The Center Coalition is a volunteer-led effort to create a regionally representative community center that is both a location and a unifying point for central Pennsylvania's large, diverse and multi-county lgbt population," says Martin. The coalition's mission is to create common ground for the lgbt community and allies in central Pennsylvania by providing services through spiritual, education and cultural activities that foster wholeness.

With the recent "merging" of two organizations - The LGBT Community Center Coalition of Central PA and youth group Common Roads - the FAB committee has also "merged" the youth organization's summer "Tropicanza" fund-raising venue with FAB.

All Ticket Levels

This year's event offers various levels of ticket prices in order to allow for the broadest cross-section of the community to participate and thereby support the community center. A FAB VIP Reception will be hosted from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m., a Classic Reception from 6-7 p.m. The Main Event begins at 7 p.m. evolving at 10 p.m into After-FAB, with music by east coast sensation DJ Freez.

"One of the most important elements we wanted to bring to the table was a truly diverse evening." Says co-chair Patti Bucek. "The entertainment, speakers, silent auction, dance, and especially the three-tiered ticket pricing allows something for everyone".

VIP Reception

The evening starts at 5:30-6:30 p.m. with a "See & Be Seen" VIP Reception featuring Lancaster native and international jazz vocalist CoCo & Company.

Classic Reception

The Classic Reception, 6-7 p.m., is available to all VIP & Classic Ticket holders and features tasty hors d'oeuvres, cash bar, and a silent auction with something for everyone. Nationally acclaimed flutists Matthew Allison and Adrian Baule will provide the "classic" entertainment in keeping with evening's high caliber. The Common Roads' Art Exhibit "Coming Out, 15 Artists/15 Years of Common Roads," will also be on display and available for purchase through the silent auction.

Photographer on Site

To keep the memories of the night forever treasured, Tony Gibble Photography will be on-hand to perfectly capture the nights' special moments. A portion of the proceeds going to the LGBT Community Center Coalition.

Main Event

At press time, the Mistress of Ceremonies was still being confirmed but promises to be another highlight of the evening. The MC will lead the evenings' program of accolades and award presentations. "This isn't your everyday stuffy old traditional event," says co-chair Blyler. "If the crowd leaves the event with increased pride in the concept of an LGBT Community Center here as well as a sense of amazement from the event atmosphere, that's terrific!! But at the end of the day, this event is about establishing a stronger, more unified community - through a dedicated and supportive community CENTER. When that happens, the committee has done their job right".

Eric Alva

After the special presentation Eric Alva, gay and the first American soldier wounded in Iraq, will address the crowd. In keeping with tradition, FAB Co-Chairs will present the Fall Achievement Award at the close of the main event. (See story this page)

Dance

The night isn't over yet. To close out the evening, renowned east coast sensation DJ Freez will spin his dance mixes.

For more information on an evening that promises to sell out, or to purchase your tickets now, visit: www.centralpalgbtcenter.org or call20717.920.9534.

Pride Fundraisers Coming Up

It's official. Pride 2010 is in full swing and planned for Fri. July 23 through Sun., July 25. The theme is celebrating "One World, One Goal, Equality for All."

Please show your support of the Pride Festival of Central PA by attending the following fundraisers. Check the website at www.harrisburgpride.org for updates.

Sept. 6, 11a.m. – 2p.m. - Pride Festival Of Central PA Pride Benefit Brunch at Liquid 891. Join the Pride Committee for Brunch! Proceeds Go To Next Year's Pride Fest! Everyone Who Attends Will Receive a $10.00 Liquid 891 Gift Card. Menu & Buffet Available!

Sept. 19, 11a.m. – 3 p.m. - Burger Burn at Sam's Club, Harrisburg. Stop by our booth for a great snack while completing your shopping list. Participate in our Lottery too.

Oct 1, 7 p.m. sharp - "...And All That Jazz" Special Preview Show at Club XS $10 General Admission, limited cocktail table seating. Tickets available at door, from pride committee members, or call 717-801-1830.

Oct. 6, 11a.m. - 9p.m. - Community Day at Hoss's, Lunch & Dinner, Hummelstown and Mechanicsburg locations. Free Coupon required. Please see pride committee members or visit our website to download Coupon.

Oct. - Date/time TBA -Gaytoberfest Pub Crawl at The Harrisburg Gayborhood Bars

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